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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Communiques Threaten U.S., USSR, Poland, UK

JN2304083990 Amman AL-HADAF AL-'ARABI in Arabic Apr 90 p 1

["Text" of Communiques Nos. 2 and 3 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine—date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Communique No. 2 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine under the command of Hasan al-Hasan. In reply to the Polish Government's decision to increase its flights to Israel and to transport Soviet Jewish emigrants to Palestine, the General Command threatens to blow up Polish airline and shipping offices wherever this is feasible. The General Command also threatens to blow up Polish embassies and to physicially liquidate the ambassadors and employees in these embassies also wherever this is feasible. The same applies to the Soviet embassies and those working in them unless these countries go back on their decision to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Palestine, or unless they welcome them on their territory via air, sea, and land.

Communique No. 3 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine under the command of Hasan al-Hasan. In reply to the campaign against fraternal and Muslim Iraq, the front will silence the British Government in the manner it deems fit if the United Kingdom does not suspend its campaign against Muslim Iraq. The front also threatens the United States that it will destroy 173 U.S. companies working in the Arabian Gulf, in addition to sniping at important U.S. figures, including ambassadors, if the United States continues to threaten fraternal and Muslim Libya, particularly the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant. Any action against any Muslim country is viewed by the front as an aggression against all Muslims. Those who carry out such aggression will regret it.

Al-Qadhdhafi Thanks Syria, Group for Release

LD2304081790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Apr, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has expressed his thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Organization of Islamic Jihad for the release of another hostage, "Robert Polhill", in response to the brother leader of the revolution's call made at the beginning of this month, which led to the release of the french hostage Jacqueline Valente and her family from the Fatah Revolutionary Council Organization.

'Significant Progress' in Syria, Iraq Relations

JN2304154990 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 23 Apr 90 pp 28, 27

[Text] Diplomatic Arab sources have told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that His Majesty King Husayn has made significant progress toward a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

According to the sources, his majesty held several contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the blessed month of Ramadan. These contacts have removed many obstacles hindering normal relations between Damascus and Baghdad. Agreement was also reached to hold a meeting in Amman between the foreign under secretaries of the two countries to prepare the agenda of a later meeting between their foreign ministers to discuss all subjects of disagreement and to propose solutions.

The sources expect full reconciliation between the two countries to take place during the proposed Arab summit at the end of next month.

A high-ranking Jordanian official told journalists the atmosphere is now ready for an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation. The official expressed hope the reconciliation would take place during the proposed Arab summit.

Egypt, Libya, Sudan, YAR 'Security Axis'

JN2204151190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] has held political consultations with Cairo with a view to forming a four-way security axis to protect the Red Sea from the danger of Israeli infiltration. The axis will be made up of Egypt, Sudan, YAR, and Libya. Cairo has given its initial assent and will give its final approval once the full formula of the agreement has been prepared.

YAR-Sudan contacts have been held over the past few days to outline the security agreement before proposing it to Egypt and Libya. Sources pointed out that the two countries will finalize the agreement over the next month. This will be followed by a meeting in Sanaa between Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the military council in Sudan, and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to sign the agreement as the first step.

The agreement will stress the need to exchange security information and give strategic, political, and military alternatives to counter any threats to the security of the two countries and the Red Sea.

In a related development, the YAR has decided to hold contacts with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, headed by John Garang, to secure all that is necessary for the success of the agreement. Sudan will hold contacts with Libya on the proposal.

Committee Revived After 'Arafat Visit to Jordan

JN2204114690 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Apr 90 p 1

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan was very positive, and its results very practical. This is how a Jordanian official described the visit of president 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation to Jordan. The practical aspect of the visit is manifested in the revival of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for bolstering the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories, whose activity was suspended last year because of the unavailability of funds, which have not been provided by most of the Arab countries which pledged to do so.

The Jordanian official, who declined to give his name, said the joint committee will focus on the political aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint political action; this means the role of the committee will be transformed into "a political committee", chaired by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas from the Palestinian side, and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim from the Jordanian side. The work of the committee primarily will focus on making available the means needed to facilitate the life of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and coordination between Jordan and the PLO in political issues pertaining to the Palestine question. Palestinian sources have said the revival of the joint committee does not necessarily mean the two parties have reached a formula or a unified strategy agreed upon in advance. This committee will also urge Arab countries to extend financial support to it to be able to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories.

The new committee—formed during 'Arafat's visit—is the joint information committee, chaired by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, and Ibrahim 'Izz-al- Din, Jordanian information minister. The work of this committee will acquire overriding importance, especially in relation to the programs that will be broadcast by Jordanian television and the communication of the required messages to the kinfolk of the occupied territories, since Jordanian television reaches every Palestinian home in the occupied territories; this means that broadcasting will be especially directed toward the residents of the occupied territories. The Jordanian official concentrated on the importance of broadcasting cultural programs so residents of the occupied territories might benefit from these programs, in addition to the Jerusalem Open University lectures. The committee's first activity will be to interview 'Arafat next Wednesday.

If the need arises, other committees might be formed to tackle the problems of the residents of the occupied territories to ease their burden.

Also, there will be other committees formed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] members in Jordan in light of their closeness to the occupied territories, their familiarity with the residents' problems, and because, as a PNC member indicated, a large percentage of Palestinians live in Jordan.

The Jordanian official said Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah has demonstrated complete readiness to examine all issues which can alleviate the Palestinian's problems. It is noteworthy that among the results of 'Arafat's visit to Jordan was the formation of a Jordanian ministerial committee under Masa'idah to study the negative effects which ensued Jordan's decision to severe legal ties [with the West Bank]. Masa'idah told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI yesterday that the committee has not yet finished its studies. However, the Interior Ministry and the Follow-up and Scrutiny Department, Masa'idah continued, are providing facilities to the West Bank residents who visit Jordan, in addition to granting passports valid for two or three years to the Gaza Strip residents which are renewable at expiration.

The Palestinian delegation discussed with the Jordanian Government the status of Palestinians whose passports were seized and were issued with passports valid for two years instead following the disengagement decision, and the possibility of making those passports valid for five years. The minister of interior, however, said this issue is still under examination and study because there is more involved than the mere issuance of a passport.

The Jordanian official made it clear the formation of these committees comes at this time because of the need and importance of these committees. The situation as a whole, moreover, mandates this strong coordination between Jordan and the PLO. For, the current Middle East political stalemate, the immense pressures created by the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, and the unsettled Middle East issue, are all factors which mandate more closeness between Jordanians and Palestinians, and cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO. The atmosphere of openness Jordan is witnessing, furthermore, facilitates this closeness. This also demands the building of a strong front to fend off dangers facing the Palestine question, Jordan, and the Arab world in general.

About the issue of the confederacy between Palestine and Jordan, the Jordanian official said the PLO had earlier posed this issue, but he asserted that the Palestinian delegation did not bring it up during 'Arafat's recent visit. Moreover, before leaving Amman, 'Arafat asserted to reporters that confederacy can only be achieved when a Palestinian state is established on the Palestinian territories, and when the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples accept the confederacy. As for the Jordanian side, it too considers talk about a confederacy premature.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Makes Request for Arab League Summit

LD2304140390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] The PLO has lodged an official request with the Arab League to convene an extraordinary Arab summit meeting to examine the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and the Israeli threats against Iraq and other Arab states.

This request was announced by Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian representative to the Arab League. He added that the state of Palestine has made this request because of the challenges and dangers the Arab nation is facing during this critical situation, related especially to the continuing emigration of the Soviet Jews, which jeopardises pan-Arab destiny and security.

Mr. Hakam Bal'awi stressed that the continuous Israeli threats against Iraq and other Arab countries call for the request for this summit to convene in order to take a decisive and effective Arab stance. He pointed out that President Saddam Husayn has accepted the PLO's request to have Iraq host this summit.

'Arafat Calls for Arab Summit on Israeli Issue

LD2204115590 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 22 Apr (APS)—Following the audience he was granted by the head of the state, the president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, told the press he was happy to meet President Chadli Bendjedid in difficult moments the Palestinian cause and people are living through.

"Everytime, there are important developments for the Palestinian cause." He continued, we come to Algeria to ask for aid from it.

"In this context," he said, "we conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid on the increase of Israeli crimes perpetrated against the Islamic and Christian holy places."

The danger which the immigration of Soviet Jews represents on the Arab security was also at the center of our talks, he said. Knowing that more than 300,000 immigrants enter to Palestine every year, this means that this number will reach 3 million in 10 years.

"These 3 million," 'Arafat added, "will constitute a danger not only for Palestine but for the Arab and Islamic nation as a whole. This requires an immediate Arab reaction in order to face up these challenges by adopting a firm and responsible position."

In this context, the president of the state of Palestine insisted on the necessity to hold an Arab extraordinary summit as soon as possible in order to take a position about the Israeli challenges against the Palestinian people and the sacred values of the Islamic nation, adding that President Chadli Bendjedid has given his agreement in principle about this subject.

Paper Cited on Israeli-Palestinian Meeting

NC2204074590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Abu-Dhabi, 22 Apr (MENA)—AL-ITTIHAD reports today that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held in Paris very soon. PLO and Israeli officials will take part in the meeting under official French auspices, the paper adds.

AL-ITTIHAD cites a Palestinian official who will participate in the meeting as saying that the Palestinian delegation will include two Fatah Central Committee members. The meeting, according to the paper, is the fruit of the French Government's efforts to play an effective role in the Middle East peace process.

'Arafat Discusses Issues with Kuwait Leaders

LD2304085590 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait 23 April, KUNA—Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived here today for a brief visit to Kuwait within the framework of his tour of a number of Arab countries. Soon after arrival he went straight to al-Safa' Palace for a meeting with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah to examine with them the call for the convening of an Arab summit and the latest development of the Palestinian problem as well as the Palestinian people's intifadah in the Arab occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Premier's Office Denies Ministers' Resignations

LD2204204890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Now and then a number of French media organs come up with some exciting news, concocted by minds which are prisoners of a past that is dead and buried. A number of television channels would not hesitate to throw poisonous media bombs, in complete disregard for the profession's ethics and objectivity, in search of excitment, though not innocuously. Yesterday a French television channel came up with what it called the resignation of two members of Mouloud Hamrouche's government and two advisors in the premier's office. Such a news item came up following the weekend demonstration in the country. This fabricated news item was vehemently refuted by the director of the premier's ofice in two interviews with Radio I [Arabic] and Radio III [French].

However, the least that can be said about such rumors is the fact that they fall within the framework of the propaganda campaigns which we have become accustomed to, unveiling the premeditated intentions of some sadistic circles which seek enjoyment from others' pain and suffering and become anxious whenever a civilized achievement is accomplished in Algeria.

Candidates Hold 'Pitched Battle' in Tlemcen

LD2304185990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1730 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Acts of violence and intolerance are now reaching our mosques. This happened at Tlemcen on Saturday night [21 April] between independent candidates in the forthcoming elections and members of the religious association of the Said ibn (?Zayid) Mosque in the Daira of Remchi in Tlemcen. The two sides indulged in a veritable pitched battle; the election candidates are reported to have used knives, pieces of iron, and clubs. This is, in any case, what a report from the religious association has affirmed. The report has been handed over to the local authorities of the executive bureau of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] [as heard]. According to the document the cause of these violent acts is the failure to authorize the celebration of this religious festival by the association within the mosque. Fortunately, according to the report, only slight injuries were recorded, adding that it could have been worse without the intervention of members of the National Gendarmerie.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Algiers For Visit

LD2104150690 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 21 Apr 1990, APS—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Algiers at noon today. Welcomed at Houari Boumedienne international airport by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algiers, and high ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Palestinian embassy

Egypt

Spokesman Voices 'Alarm' Over Israeli Policy

NC2204105490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman said Egypt is following with great alarm the current measures by which certain people in Israel seek to boost and consolidate the policy of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, a policy which Egypt strongly denounces.

The source noted that recent measures approved by Yitzhaq Shamir attest to certain tendencies in Israel which Egypt has always warned against, tendencies capable of complicating any serious efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The source said Egypt expects all those in Israel who believe in peace and its inevitability to take a firm position against these new measures aiming at building more settlements in the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza.

The source said the international community has a duty now more than ever to state clearly its rejection of Israeli settlement activities and to declare such activities illegal. Such a position, the source added, is necessitated in view of the Soviet Jews' migration to Israel and the possible outcome of current attempts to settle them in the occupied territories.

Abu-Talib Cites Enhanced 'Capabilities'

NC2204143690 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sidi Barrani, 22 Apr (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and military production, said today the Egyptian Armed Forces are capable of defending the motherland and preserving peace which is the basis of development. General Abu-Talib said the Egyptian Armed Forces were continually enhancing their capabilities.

"We contue to carry out plans for development, modernization and training to maintain efficiency and combat readiness in a manner which would enable us to protect peace and would not affect development plans," he said. The commander-in-chief was addressing officers and men in the western military zone at Sidi Barrani. The visit is part of a field tour which General Abu-Talib is making to various Army units. General Abu-Talib conveyed to the troops the greetings of President Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, on

the occasion of Ramadan and Bairam and the anniversary of the liberation of Sinai.

Butrus Ghali Notes Developments in Nigeria

NC2204161990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that Egypt is following developments in Nigeria with interest because of the close ties linking the two countries.

The Federal Military Government in Nigeria has declared that Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida is fully in control of the situation in the country. Reports indicate the coup attempt this morning resulted in heavy casualties, according to Nigerian Government sources.

'Abd-al-Majid Presents Proposal to Ambassadors

NC2304144090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred here today with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council's five permanent members.

MENA has learned that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid handed each of these ambassadors a copy of a memorandum Egypt recently sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on President Mubarak's proposal to turn the Middle East into a zone free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

On behalf of all the ambassadors, the envoys of the United States, the Soviet Union, and China welcomed this initiative and promised to relay it to their governments and to undertake the necessary consultations to put this initiative into effect.

Leaders of Newly-Formed Parties Discuss Programs

JN2004134290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Apr 90 p 8

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[Excerpts] The Political Parties Court ruling on Saturday [14 April] allowed the birth of three new political parties: The Green Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] Party. [passage omitted]

The question is: Who are the leaders of these new parties? What are their political programs? And how do they think?

Lawyer 'Ali al-Din Salih, founder of the new Misr al-Fatah Party, says his party is based on a new idea: avoidance of competition between democracy and socialism, because the Constitution has guaranteed these. The party's policy is based on "opposition to solutions;" [as published] that is, on discussion of all problems and ways to confront and treat them. He says the party's opposition to solutions on the political scene will not be practiced through alliance with any other force, whether representing a minority or a majority, and that the decisive factor will be the ideas in the party's program.

He says his party's program is distinct from those of existing parties because it is based on the project of the new Nile and the intellectual philosophy of this project in all aspects.

The project advocates a new watercourse for the Nile north of the Higher Dam. The new watercourse would originate from the existing one and flow back into it after irrigating some 1.26 million hectares in the western desert. Detailed studies on this will be announced by the party as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Democratic Unionist Party founder Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Turk describes the court ruling as evidence of the democratic climate created by President Mubarak and proof of the integrity of the judicial system, which allowed independent parties to form freely and without help from any government quarter.

He says this constitutes a call for all Egyptians to participate in political activity and to submit their ideas for achieving Egypt's progress and prosperity.

Mr. Turk, director of the Industrial Development Bank in Alexandria, says his party's basic goal is the achievement of unity between Egypt and Sudan, so that the homeland can restore its unity, as he puts it.

He adds that restoration of Egyptian-Sudanese unity is a prelude to achieving Arab unity.

On foreign policy, Turk says his party supports President Husni Mubarak's steps and persistent and successful efforts to resolve the Middle East problem peacefully.

Turk says his party believes in a free economic system, which calls for cooperation among all sectors of people—workers, peasants, and businessmen—to redouble national income and increase individual income in a short period of time to improve life in Egypt in a way commensurate with Egypt's world status and its economic, social, and intellectual progress.

Turk joins those who call for the abolition of all extraordinary laws, which currently hinder his party's free economic policy.

This is the first experience in the field of party work for both Mr. Turk and the other 80 founding members—all of them businessmen who emerged from among workers, as he says.

Members of the Green Party will meet this morning, to choose Dr. Hasan Rajab, professor of papyrology, as their leader. They stress that issues of development, problems of environment deterioration in Egypt—in every sense of the word—and dealing with ignorance and backwardness as the worst manifestations of pollution,

lie essentially in achieving constant economic development to meet the requirements of this generation and of future ones.

The party calls for national consensus on a national economic theory binding on all the Egyptians irrespective of their political affiliation or ideological groups. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Release of All Hostages

LD2204153990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1459 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution addresses a call to Muslims throughout the world, in his capacity as the leader of the world Islamic people's leadership.

On the occasion of Laylat al-Qadr and the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, we call for the second time on all those who are holding hostages to release them, primarily those who carried out humanitarian acts, such as the members of the Red Cross, out of respect for and in implementation of the generous principles of Islam.

At the same time, I address this call to the states of the world to put pressures on the racism which is governing occupied Palestine in order to release the innocent Palestinians. It is also the world's duty to condemn the savage torture and barbaric treatment inflicted on those Palestinians in the camps and the duty of the Western states to release the citizens of Middle East countries they are holding for political reasons.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in Tripoli

LD2004141990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2106 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting with students of the Higher Institute for Applied Social Studies at the Great al-Fatih University in Tripoli on 18 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] This institute is regarded as an important social institution. It was established to accomplish a mission which was lacking before the establishment of this institute. [passage omitted]

In general, the problems cannot be narrowed down in reality. I do not know how studies are progressing in this institute. The institute is very important and is considered one which graduates leaders in social sciences for leading the masses to solve their problems. Consequently, those who are not qualified and have no disposition from the start to lead, help, and serve the masses, must not occupy seats in this institute. [passage omitted]

The past 20 years were a preamble to the revolution, during which we trained, learned, fought, and confronted. We tried all methods. We got to know the world; we interacted, fell out, and made up with them. This was an inevitable preamble, an experience. We are now entering another 20 years of revolution. Death and other events are known to God; we have nothing to do with them. We are talking about a revolutionary plan, and it should be declared as such with or without those present [as heard]. We are starting another 20 years of revolution. Those who are capable of marching along with us in this revolution may get ready; for those who cannot, God does not burden anyone with more than they are capable of doing.

The revolution which took place in the past 20 years started with covert action; people could not speak to each other. The nature of the action and the phase dictated such a situation. However, the revolution which is starting now for another 20 years—if nothing unforeseen takes place such as a relapse caused by internal or external factors—these new 20 years. [sentence as heard] Since last September we have said: Let us start a new phase. This year, the 21st year, is a year for making plans and preparations [words indistinct] say another four months, another four months before September. Only preparatory studies and final touches are needed, and the implementation will begin after that. The new revolutionary phase is different in that it is not covert. It is overt, jamahiri, and divided into spheres in which revolution exists.

One of the starting points of the new revolution is this institute. You are expected to become leaders of the social revolution, which is due to start in four months. However, I am afraid you may not be ready for the revolution and have come to the institute with the idea that it is simply an institute of higher education. You are finding yourselves faced with a serious mission which you might fail to fulfill. What would happen then? We disband the institute and select new students. Generally speaking, you must get ready. [passage omitted] You will be the leaders of the masses in the new revolution. Each one of you must be prepared. You have seen that the whole world is moving toward the Jamahiriyah. Consequently, it has become necessary to establish the perfect model on Libyan territory. [passage omitted] It is not possible for any country to be ruled by many parties. That country would become like Lebanon, in perpetual conflict.

This is impossible; this is what is taking place in Algeria now. If you want to bring forth a political association or a charity association, just register it. It has come apart, one fears that Algeria will break apart [words indistinct] each party rejoicing in that which is with itself. One fears these groups will arm themselves one day and Algeria will become like Lebanon or Chad, and civil war will begin. Chad has been in a civil war for almost 30 years and Lebanon has lived with decades of civil war, that is, since the 18th century [as heard]. I fear Algeria will also fall into a dangerous whirlpool if things do not change or improve somehow. Elections do not solve the problem in a multiparty system because voters distribute their votes among these parties and each party will get a small

number of votes. If things end up with one party ruling, the one which does not rule will lie in wait, not to guide it but to destroy it. It is not in the interest of society; it is in the interest of this party so that it occupies the position of power.

This whirlpool of a multiparty system is known and does not lead to a satisfactory result. The first structure, whatever its form or nature, has collapsed and now a mix-up which has no beginning and no end has started. East [as heard] Europe and America, which is used to the two-party system—the Republican-Democratic or the Socialist-Social Christian or the Labor and Conservative—are feeling the brunt of the current storm and will not remain steadfast. Other parties will appear in the arena around these two parties, and we will see new parties in Britain, the United States, and Germany and the small parties, because of the farce of false democracy, now have a decisive importance. The large party is not important anymore. The important one is the small party. One whose party is in the lead because it is a large one, 49 percent of the votes, needs two votes so that it will have 51 percent to form a government, for example.

The one who received 40 percent of the votes needs the one who received two percent and starts to beg him: You who have only two percent, join me. If the one who has two percent joins him, together they will have 51 percent and the one with 49 percent of the votes will be at the mercy of the one with two more percent because he can threaten him at anytime and tell him: I will withdraw my two votes and you will only have 49, whereas your rival will have 51. The party with the microscopic minority will become the one ruling the country and start dictating to the one with 49 percent of the votes and tell it to issue certain decisions, even if the latter are in the interest of a very marginal minority or an individual. The majority will not be the one deciding its destiny. This is a farce. Votes are distributed among 20 parties and each party will receive 20 percent [as heard]. All these parties will become equal, but which one will have the majority?

The world really confirms everyday the soundness of the Third Universal Theory and the thesis of "The Green Book" which lies in its importance, success and credibility because they are the lessons learned from history. [passage omitted]

The first jamahiri society and revolution must be given attention. Among the objectives of the jamahiri revolution is that in the next 20 years Arab unity must be achieved, a serious strategic defense force must be built, one that will destroy colonialist, Zionist, or imperialist ambitions in the Arab homeland, and the world must change over to the jamahiri system through a jamahiri revolution which will begin in Libya. [slogans shouted]

Those who march with us in this revolution must get ready and know why they are in this institute. The social revolution in these spheres will start from this institute, and you will be the leaders of the social revolution. [passage omitted]

Now if you look for steelworkers in Europe you will not find any. [inaudible question in background] Yes, if you consider the robot as a step forward. Nowadays a man wants to give up many things in this era. [sentence as heard] In Europe, when the workers are told they are needed for the steel and iron industry, they say: no thanks; furnaces, fire and so on: no. Do you have any gardening jobs or in the plastic industries? This is why they have turned from steel and iron to aluminium, and later they will change to plastic. When they are sent to a factory that builds planes and trains, they say: No, we thought it was a watch factory. At this rate, they may not find anyone to work in the future unless they use robots. This is one of the goals of progress, to replace man. Let us not talk about this now, it is all in the future. Now it is difficult to say we will give up material gains, regardless of the moral problems which have resulted from these gains. It is wrong and dangerous to ignore moral problems; that is, the social problems which have resulted from material progress or the nature of this era. It is like someone who has a disease and refuses to have it diagnosed and treated. [passage omitted]

So there are social problems which we are indeed faced with. Those parts of the world, which have reached the present stage and were faced with these problems before us, set up those institutions which you hear about, such as the International Family Federation which convened in Banghazi. This institution was formed by 70 states because the latter became aware before us of the seriousness of the social problems faced by the family. The family is today in danger. The institution of marriage is also threatened and may even disappear. How would people's lives be without a family? All the constitutions of the world stress the importance of the family and now this first cell of society is threatened with extinction. The marriage contract has also become, in a number of countries, a farce and is not respected. Even here in Libya when a man marries a second wife without his first wife's consent—thus contravening the resolution issued after the revolution—it is tantamount to disdain for and destruction of the first cell of society and the destruction of the family. [passage omitted] What threatens the world now are all the workers' strikes in all states. East Europe did not know them but will know them now because millions of workers in East Europe will become unemployed because they left socialism. Those present now in East Europe will now have stability, a thousand governments will fail, conflicts will continue and they will be more backward. The consequences of unemployment, inflation, and high costs of living will come to them. [passage omitted] This is empty talk. What is this? One cannot move anymore; there are beatings in the streets, and when the call for prayer is made, one gets a stick and will break your car window: did you not hear the call for prayer? How can I be a Muslim in this way, brother? How can you judge me whether I pray or not, whether I have done my ablutions or not? What is this empty talk? Their time has gone. The groups of repudiation [reference to Takfir wa'l-Hijrah] and others are hashish-smokers—you know (?the fortress of the dead)

the hashish-smokers of the past in Iran. These are from the same group. Their time passed a long time ago when an army used to take over a mountain, close an area between two mountains, impose an iron grip on it, making fun of the youth, trains them and tells them: Jump from the mountain—and they do it and die. It also tells them to be bandits and [words indistinct] the thing which is now called jihad, call [al-Da'wah], repudiation and renunciation, has come from Iran. Who are they? They are hashish-smokers and have nothing to do with religion. These were in fact religious groups but bandits like our highwaymen [as heard] [sounds of laughter], precisely, the highwayman, he gets a little bit of barley from every carriage which passes by; otherwise, he turns it upside down. Their time has gone. Now in society, the world is moving toward the jamahiri system; consequently, we will concern ourselves with the jamahiri revolution in Libya and export it and explain it to the world. It will be a historic revolution. All the ailments in this society must be eradicated in leading the masses along the path. Speaking specifically about the Higher Institute of Applied Social Sciences, you must be prepared for another 20 years of revolution. You will have to go out on the street. It will not be traditional work or employment. We do not want to see any of you after graduation, going somewhere other than the field of leading the masses socially. Those who do may be tried. [passage omitted]

Think of a method of deterrence for the whole Arab world; it should deter imperialism, Zionism, in Europe or anywhere. This homeland aspires in the coming twenty years to be feared; not like before: France, taking Tunisia and Algeria; England, taking Egypt and the Sudan. Between you there is a piece of land they called Libya and you gave it to the Italians [as heard]. This they gave to the French. This should not be repeated.

When we have a deterrent force, they will no longer think about dividing us. This is not a myth or a fable; this is the truth. Did not the Americans almost hit you yesterday when you were asleep in your homes? If they know that you have a deterrent force capable of hitting the United States, they would not be able to hit you. If we had possessed a deterrent—missiles that could reach New York—we would have hit it at the same moment. Consequently, we should build this force so that they and others will no longer think about an attack. Whether regarding Libya or the Arab homeland, in the coming twenty years this revolution should achieve a unified Arab nation. This revolution should achieve the unity of the Arab nation. This should become one homeland, the whole of it, possessing missiles and even nuclear bombs. Regarding reciprocal treatment, the world has a nuclear bomb, we should have a nuclear bomb.

When I asked the leader of China how did China manufacture the hydrogen bomb, he told me: Listen, we are a poor part of the Third World. I told him I visited the Great Wall of China, but on the way I saw the Chinese carrying big stones on donkeys. What is this? They said there is a river and when its flood time comes, it is blocked from this side by stones and mud and then we remove the stones so that the river can flow. They carry the stones on donkeys. When I returned I told Li Peng: China has a hydrogen bomb and I saw you carrying stones on donkeys. He said: China is a poor country and still employs donkeys, horses, and mules, and hands. But I collected a pound from every Chinese until I had a billion with which I manufactured the hydrogen bomb. I said every Chinese pays a pound. I said why? He told me I show the other big powers which have nuclear bombs that if they play with the nuclear bomb, they will not be able to play with China. For this purpose, to deter, to stop them from saying they will not say the size of the population of China is big and its territory is big, and we shall occupy it one day, use nuclear bombs against it and take it. We tell them even China has a bomb. If bombs are used, even China can use them. If nuclear bombs are not used, well, this is what we want.

This is our logic, also. When the world is playing around with rockets and bombs, we must be capable of playing the game. These are our objectives. [passage omitted] We want to create a deterrent force such as has been created by the world's tyrants. They must realize the people of this homeland must be able to live in security; that is all, to be able to live in security, to plough, plant, dance, and sing in our homeland in security as a result of having a deterrent. This is what we must achieve in the next 20 years—by achieving the unity of the Arab nation and creating a strategic force.

We would like to change the whole world into jamahiriyahs. If jamahiriyahs are established everywhere they will be our friends, and those who are evil will disappear. Those leaders, governments, and armies are destroying the world which we are a part of, and consequently, we may be destroyed. Zionism will disappear in the next 20 years. We will solve all the problems and concentrate on this great work. You will lead the masses forward in this way, starting from this institute which will produce the jamahiri leaders of the social revolution.

Society will reach a level where its sedentary members, those who cannot stand up, will be trained to carry out management and sedentary work that does not involve the use of legs—instead of paying them a basic wage or social security and leaving them in a corner. [passage omitted] This is one of the objectives for which we established this institute; you may not know that. Perhaps you did not know that and just entered the institute for no particular reason. [passage omitted]

Defense Missiles 'Withdrawn' From Al-Rabitah

AU2304145790 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 23 Apr 90 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Disarmament in Al-Rabitah"]

[Text] According to findings of Western intelligence agencies, Libyan revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has withdrawn all air-defense missiles from

the neighborhood of the poison-gas factory in Al-Rabitah. At the plant for electronic warfare, which is located at nearby Gharjan, the far-reaching Soviet-made air-defense missiles were also withdrawn. According to an intelligence service report, which was presented last week to the Office of the Chancellor in Bonn, Western intelligence services have noticed only "very limited activity" in Al-Rabitah since a fire allegedly broke out at the chemical weapons plant there, which was established with German help. Secret services in the United States presume that Al-Qadhdhafi thinks that the plant is no longer threatened from the air. It is also possible that Libya stopped the production of chemical weapons—at least temporarily—because the stored quantities are considered to be sufficient. The Americans believe that Al-Qadhdhafi might concentrate on the research and developments installations of the metal plant, which belongs to the complex at Al-Rabitah and which is even larger. It was said that it is possible to produce precision elements there for bombs and, possibly, even missiles.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Algerian 'Direct Democracy'

LD2304200990 Tripoli JANA in English 1634 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [Apr] 23, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great Al-fatih revolution asserted that in Algeria, which is currently passing through a period of labour to evolve ruling itself by itself, the people must take a short-cut and head directly towards implementing direct people's democracy by way of people's congresses and committees.

In its important address to a meeting of the secretaries of physical training centres, he said that such a framework is already available to the Algerian people to come out from its suffering from stray, contradicting and multiple approaches to the method of rule.

Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes Visiting Foreign Officials

Sudanese Revolutionary

LD2104094290 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al Tayr [Apr] 21, Jamahiriya News Agency—The leader of the revolution yesterday received General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, the member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation in his company.

Al-Tijani conveyed a verbal message to the leader of the revolution from General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council.

Belgian Envoy

LD2104161490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Apr 1990, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution today received the Belgian ambassador accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Further on 23 Apr Coup Attempt

Radio SPLA Reports

AB2304145290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in SPLA English 1300 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Reliable sources in Khartoum, in an urgent message to Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], revealed that there are serious developments in the national capital, Khartoum, which began after the death of martyr Dr. Ali Fadl Ahmad Fadl, who lost his life following his torture by the National Islamic Front Security Forces. Dr. Ali Fadl Ahmad is a graduate of al-Zaga University in Egypt in 1980. He had been doing his master's degree at Khartoum University and is one of the members of the medical union.

In another development, there is a continuous unrest in Khartoum. A coup attempt has been reported, staged by a group of young officers, most of them with the rank of major, from the paratroopers. One of the leaders is said to be Major Muhammad Uthman Karrar. They have demanded the resignation of the National Islamic Front government and the military council. We will bring you more details as soon they are received.

SPLA Forces on 'Maximum Alert'

EA2304150490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] You are still tuned to the English service of Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the voice of the Sudanese revolutionary armed struggle. We have just received this news item. The chairman and commander-in-chief SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has ordered as from 1500 hrs today, 23rd April 1990, all SPLA forces everywhere to be on maximum alert and ready to march anywhere. That is the news.

Coup Leaders in Custody

NC2304155290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, Sudanese information and culture minister and official spokesman for the Sudanese Government, has announced that the leaders of the coup attempt which was foiled at dawn today are Retired Major

General 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Kidru, commander of the artillery corps under the former regime, and Retired Brigadier General Muhammad 'Uthman Hamid, governor of the Eastern Region under the former partisan regime.

The information and culture minister told reporters today that the situation has been brought under complete control. He said that the officers who had taken part in the coup attempt, some of whom were on active duty and some retired, have been taken into custody and are being interrogated.

Muhammad Khawjali Salihin added that the recent coup attempt is an extension of a similar, previous attempt. He noted that the concerned security authorities had placed the officers involved, who had been acting as two groups, under surveillance. He said that the first group was arrested during the previous coup attempt three weeks ago.

The authorities began to monitor the movement of the officers in the second group at 2200 yesterday, Sunday, after receiving information that they were going to begin a coup attempt early this morning. The Sudanese Armed Forces took preventive measures at dawn today.

The official spokesman concluded his remarks by announcing that the coup attempt was limited to some units in Khartoum.

Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, asserted that the conspiracy was an extension of former incidents. He said that the government is going ahead with the process of transfering power over to the people. He pointed out that the expected political organization in Sudan will be established soon.

Barracks Surrounded

JN2304180290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Apr (INA)—It was announced a short time ago that the leader of the abortive coup attempt in Sudan is Retired Staff Major General Husayn 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Kidru, former commander of the Armored Corps.

In a speech carried by Khartoum Television this evening, Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, said that the leader of the abortive coup attempt is currently taking refuge in the headquarters of the Armored Corps at the al-Shajarah Barracks in the suburbs of Khartoum. He said that the barracks are completely surrounded, but have not been stormed out of concern for the lives of soldiers inside. He said that if they had wanted to storm the barracks, the central [markaziyah] troops would have used the Air Force and armored vehicles. [passage omitted]

30 Officers Arrested

NC2304210090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2014 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, Sudanese minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the National Salvation Government in Sudan, has stated that 30 officers, some still in active service and some retired, have been arrested for involvement in the abortive coup. No civilians were involved, he said.

At a press conference this evening, the official spokesman denied foreign radio reports that clashes are continuing. He emphasized that those who participated in the coup attempt in the al-Shajarah area—the Armored Corps—surrendered at 0230 this morning. Those who infiltrated to Shambat bridge and were heading for the radio station and those who infiltrated to Khartoum Airport surrendered early this morning, he asserted. There was no loss of life, he declared.

The Sudanese official spokesman denied that this attempt had any political color or support from any state. Those who made the attempt achieved no military victory, as evidenced by the fact that the attempt was over in a matter of minutes, he stated.

Asked by MENA how some of the elements involved in the attempt were able to make their move despite the night curfew and stringent security measures, the official spokesman said that those who took part in the attempt managed to reach Shambat bridge and other positions in their capacity as members of the security forces.

In conclusion, the spokesman stressed that in their efforts to control the situation the Armed Forces were eager to avoid any casualties. He declared that the situation in the country is stable, that security prevails, and that life is progressing normally in all parts of Khartoum.

Situation 'Normal'

EA2304170090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartouz, 23 Apr (SUNA)—Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the minister of culture and information and official government spokesman, said here today that the coup attempt which was foiled in Khartoum at dawn today was led by Major General Abd al-Qadir al-Kidru, retired, and Colonel Muhammad Uthman Ahmad Karrar, retired, governor of the Eastern Region in the former partisan era.

The minister told SUNA that the situation had (?been brought) under control. All the officers involved had been arrested and placed in custody. He said some of the officers were on active service and others were retired officers.

He said the attempt had been an extension of the previous attempt of 26 March. He said the security organ

had placed the officers involved on two lists, A and B. Those in list A had been involved in the previous attempt and had been arrested. Then the security organ had begun to trace the movements of the officers on list B and a great deal of information then came to hand to the effect that the officers on list B intended to make their move at dawn today, by which time every step had been taken to nip the move in the bud. So the situation was under control right from the beginning.

The minister said the attempt had been a limited one, emanating from some units in Khartoum. He said the interrogation of the officers involved was already under way. He said the security situation was in hand, the situation normal and citizens were going about their usual daily business.

Al-Bashir Statement

LD2304121490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] Brother compatriots: peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you. Here is a repeat of the important statement which was delivered by the president, Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the National Salvation Revolution.

[Begin Al-Bashir recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God the almighty has said: And cover not truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth you know. God has spoken the truth.

Honorable compatriots: Ever since the staging of the National Salvation Revolution on 30 June in the interest and for the unity of Sudan and the (?safety) and stability of its citizens [words indistinct] in all the security, economic, political and social spheres. People expected good to come with the arrival of the revolution. They rallied in the most beautiful unanimity of the Sudanese people round its government. The features of good began to appear in the (?midst) of the country, which was ridden with fragmentation and shaken by whims.

The revolution mapped out short- and long-term programs for reform. It bolstered the Armed Forces in the war imposed by the forces of mutiny. It managed to inflict on them heavy defeats. The revolution hoisted the banner of peace, honorable peace. It called for the convening of a national dialogue conference, which emerged with recommendations that were praised by foes and friends. But despite all this, the enemies of the people, the homeland, and peace, could not rest while seeing good knocking at the doors of the homeland. [sentence as received]

A faction of [word indistinct] appeared among them, whose affair (?was hatched at night). It wanted to gain the homeland under the so-called grouping allied with the dissidents. We chose (?to be patient). We observed their moves very closely until they decided to make a move at dawn today. But we moved first, with God's support. The situation was contained according to plan. All the participants were arrested—those who are still in military service and those who were retired. Your Armed Forces nipped the evil attempt in the bud and saved the country from dispersal, fragmentation, and waste. They contained the situation with a high degree of efficiency, capability, and genuine feeling of patriotism.

While congratulating our sons and brothers in the valiant Armed Forces on this vigilance and their honorable courageous stand, I call on my honorable compatriots to be vigilant and cautious. Let your eyes remain wide open to protect the revolution and preserve the homeland's security and stability.

God is great; dignity for Sudan. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Congratulates Nigeria's Babangida

EA2304182690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, has sent a congratulatory cable to the Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida, in which he expressed his pleasure at hearing the report of the foiling of the evil coup in Nigeria.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar expressed the congratulations of the people and government of Sudan to the people of Nigeria and their Armed Forces for the victory they had achieved over the rebel forces, which attempted to harm the national unity of fraternal Nigeria.

The cable stressed Sudan's support with the united Nigerian people in fighting rebellion and the restoration of law and order, and peace.

Meanwhile, in his cable, Lt. Gen 'Umar expressed congratulations to the president of Nigeria and the people on the occasion of the end of Ramadan.

Kuwait

News Conference Conducted on National Council

LD2304200190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1422 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 23 (KUNA)—His Highness [H.H.] the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah on Monday said the statement of His Highness the Amir Shaykh al-Abir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on setting up of a transitional National Council had put an end to all rumours and gossips aimed at creating uncertainty and doubts.

Addressing a press conference at Bayan palace, Shaykh Sa'd underlined "we strongly believe in shura (consultation) and people's participation but we have to admit that the previous parliamentary experience had stumbled and the reasons for this stumbling should be tackled."

Shaykh Sa'd spoke about the meetings he held with citizens from different walks of life, saying the encounters were characterized with frankness and responsibility.

Commenting on the usefulness of forming the National Council, Shaykh Sa'd appealed to the citizens not to heed to the rumours being circulated about the jurisdictions of the National Council, stressing the jurisdictions were included in the amiri decree in a clear-cut manner.

The crown prince and premier noted that the amiri decree on the formation of the National Council did not imply any intention to amend the Constitution.

He said in addition to its powers for control, legislating and monitoring the government's internal and external policy, the National Council will also focus its efforts on the reasons that led to the dissolution of the National Assembly in 1986.

Shaykh Sa'd stressed that his highness the amir was very keen on restoration of parliamentary life, citing excerpts from addresses by his highness the amir on this matter on different occasions.

"This all proves that his highness the amir was very keen on restoration of parliamentary life after making sure that the required regulations to avert the country a third crisis were maintained," Shaykh Sa'd added.

Responding to questions, his highness the crown prince expected elections for the National Council to be called around mid-June and the council to hold its first session one month later.

Asked by two chief editors of Kuwaiti dailies if the council's four-year term was too long or if it can resign after if offers the necessary recommendations before term expires, Shaykh Sa'd said:

"Its premature to answer this question and fix the (council's) duration" and he indicated that developments would dictate action, while noting that possible resignation of the body would be in the hands of his highness the amir.

When intensively questioned if the current government would resign and whether new blood would be injected into it the crown prince replied:

"I don't know why there is such prejudice against the current government... but let these things take their normal course and see what the public interest necessitates."

On whether the National Council's four-year term would be immediately followed by revival of the National Assembly, (elected parliament), Shaykh Sa'd referred the questioner to H.H. the amir's speech about the function and duration of the council. "I have nothing to add," he said.

Asked to explain H.H. the amir's reference in his speech to "limitations of freedom", the crown prince said: There is a saying that an excess of freedom turns into anarchy...and there is another saying that freedom is a double-edged sword that may cut you if you don't use it properly."

Shaykh Sa'd, meanwhile, warned chief editors of the Kuwaiti publications to be [words indistinct] a deluge of rumors about the role of the National Council, saying results will speak for themselves. [Words indistinct] the need for the chief editors to meet him and the information minister regularly so that the local press would be in the true picture of events and insulated against rumors.

But he set one condition: that the information minister would report to him that chief editors had pledged to abide by the ministry's "suggestions and ideas."

Asked both the governments response to a possible persistence of the Dwwaniya meeting (public rallies) held in recent months to press for restoration of parliament, his highness the crown prince gave an "advice" and hoped it would not be interpreted as a [word indistinct]."

He said the security authorities tolerated previous such meetings taking into account "special circumstances."

But the authorities will implement the "public gatherings law" in dealing with any present or future such meetings that could be viewed as a breach of the law, he added.

His highness the crown prince dismissed as [word indistinct] a theory that suspension and revival of parliamentary life in Kuwait had always been linked to outside pressures, being it from neighboring countries or elsewhere.

"The Kuwaiti regime cannot under any circumstances succumb to outside pressures regardless of the kind or magnitude of those pressures," he emphatically said.

He insisted that talk about pressures in the past few days was [words indistinct] reality and truth..."and don't want to tire myself by entering in the details of this subject." [passage indistinct]

Shifting to the [words indistinct] the crown prince said he had instructed the information minister [words indistinct] to him in the coming few days a set of ideas on the cancellation of censorship.

Shaykh Sa'd agreed that the government has been preoccupied of late with the revival of the parliamentary life but noted that at the same time he was following up reports on the economic institutions on recommendations to activate the country's economy.

"I'm optimistic about decisions adopted and those that will be taken in the coming few days," he said.

The meeting, attended by Information Minister Shaykh Jer Mubarak al-Ahmad al-Sabah, grouped his highness the crown prince with KUNA Board Chairman and Director General Barges Hamoud al-Barges and chief editors of 14 local newspapers and magazines.

Security Court To Try Four for Subversion

LD2104140190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1211 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Names as received]

[Text] Kuwait, April 21 (KUNA)—The State Security Court will begin on May 12 a trial of four Kuwaitis accused of joining outlawed groups which seek to overthrow the political system in Kuwait, it was announced here Saturday.

Counselor of the Court Mohamed Abdelhai al-Banay, in an exclusive statement to KUNA, named the four Kuwaitis as Syed Mohamed Baqer Syed Abbas al-Mosawi (code named al-Mahri), Faisal Abdelhadi Hajji al-Mahmeed, Walid Majed Syed Ridppch Mazeedi and Abdelhamid Abdelkarim Qasem al-Saffar.

The statement said all the four Kuwaiti citizens have been arrested earlier but did not specify when the arrest took place.

Ten counts of criminal conduct against each one of the four will be pursued by the prosecution including the smuggling and possession of explosives, publicly inciting others to topple the regime and launching subversive acts to kill people and destablize the country.

According to the statement, the accused Kuwaitis have attempted to blow up the Kuwait Airways corporation's building in the capital but the statement did not say when.

The first session of the trial will be open for the press and the public after they acquire permit cards from the court's secretary, the statement said.

Four lawyers have been chosen by the court for the defense of the four suspects and the lawyers are: Syed Ali al-Mosawi, Khalid Taher al-Mulla, Mohamed Gloum Ashkanani and Abdel-Latif Mishair al-Saif.

Qatar

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives 24 Apr on Regional Tour

JN2404102290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Apr (WAKH)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha today on a visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of area states.

He was received upon arrival by Qatari Interior Minister 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Palestinian ambassador to Qatar Yasin al-Sharif.

During his tour 'Arafat so far has visited Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, Yasir 'Arafat Hold Meeting in Mecca

JN2304200190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met yesterday in holy Mecca with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. They reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian question, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, current Arab affairs, and threats to pan-Arab security. Brother president Abu-'Ammar arrived in Jeddah yesterday to perform the minor pilgrimage.

United Arab Emirates

Ministry Supports PLO Call For Arab Summit

JN2304091490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has declared support for the PLO call for an Arab summit to confront the dangers facing the Arab homeland, particularly the danger posed by the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and their settlement in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the Israeli threats to pan-Arab security.

This came in a statement by an official source at the UAE Foreign Ministry last night.

The source affirmed the UAE's eagerness regarding proper preparation for this Arab summit and the participation of all Arab leaders to produce resolutions corresponding to the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemen's Al-Bid Departs Following Meetings

JN2204185190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and his delegation comprised of members of the Political Bureau and ministers in the southern part of the homeland, today left Sanaa for Aden after a four-day visit to the capital of the unity state.

During the visit the delegation took part in a number of meetings with members of the united Yemeni homeland leadership to discuss ways of speeding up the proclamation of Yemeni unity.

He was seen off at Sanaa International Airport by brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on UK Pipe 'Allegations'

JN2004172890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Text" of statement by Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Baghdad 20 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has rebutted the British authorities' claims and lies that the pipes on the verge of being exported to Iraq were to be used for the production of a large gun that can launch nuclear or chemical warheads. The spokesman said this British claim, like the previous one, is totally wrong, goes against the truth, and no one will believe it.

The spokesman asserted everyone knows Iraq has huge capabilities in the field of long-range missile weaponry, and that those who have these capabilities do not need a gun of the type imagined by the British customs officials.

The spokesman ridiculed the British stand by saying: Accepting the British version means the British authorities could characterize any piece of equipment purchased by Iraq from the British market as hardware, regardless of its nature and type, and could include everything that British factories and industries produce.

The spokesman said this British behavior also should be considered by the countries in the region in their future trade relations with Britain.

The following is the text of the statement made by the official spokesman:

British authorities, in coordination with known sides, are continuing their tendentious campaign with the aim of tarnishing Iraq's reputation and preventing British companies in particular and international companies in general from dealing with it.

The British authorities this time announced they had discovered pipes that were to be exported to Iraq for alleged use in manufacturing a giant gun capable of launching nuclear or chemical warheads. These authorities then went back on this and claimed the gun is being used to launch satellites.

The fumbling and embarrassments in the statements of the British authorities have become clear to everyone and were noted frankly by a deputy from the Labour Party in the British House of Commons. The minister of industry and trade in the Labour shadow Government also noted that what is taking place has turned Britain into an object of ridicule in the world.

This operation, which the British authorities have created a big fuss about, was not the first and will not be the last, because the objectives have become clear to everyone. To enlighten public opinion, we would like to present the facts related to this issue:

As everyone knows, Iraq is undertaking petrochemical projects, and the Iraqi Industry Ministry is charged with directly administering these projects. As part of the administration, a contract was concluded with the British Forgemasters Engineering Company on 7 July 1977. The contract includes all the required specifications, which are international specifications adopted in the industry for such pipes used in petrochemical projects. Since the supplying company had noted there was no need for an export permit for such pipes, the contract includes an article noting the company's commitment to obtaining from the relevant British authorities what would support the fact there was no need for a permit.

Despite this—and as the British Industry and Trade Ministry acknowledged—it was noted the company contacted the mentioned British ministry and obtained from it a clear permit to export the pipes to Iraq. Forty-four pieces were exported to Iraq legally and according to British laws.

All of a sudden the British customs authorities announced the confiscation of eight similar pipes that were to be exported to Iraq by the British company on the allegation they might be used to launch nuclear or chemical warheads.

In response to these allegations, the British company denied through its president, Philip Wright, the customs authorities' allegations. He noted that, technically, the pipes to be supplied to Iraq according to the contract could not be used for military purposes. They merely are pipes manufactured for petrochemical projects and according to specifications adopted to that effect.

The head of the company pointed out Iraq previously had asked it to manufacture pipes for guns of known caliber. The company, however, rejected the order, based on advice from the British Government. The company presented the media with a video recording of the various stages of producing these pipes, which clarifies the nature of these pipes and the purposes for which they could be used.

Despite what was presented, the British authorities continued to claim these pipes are being used to build a huge gun.

But after the many doubts raised by various parties, the British customs authorities went back on their position, only to move on to a new theory, which says the pipes could be used to build a satellite launching pad. To cope with the state of confusion and chaos that hit the British authorities, a new voice rose up within this arranged campaign—the voice of the British company Walter Somers, which claimed it had sold a piece of equipment to Iraq as part of a special order for petrochemical industries. The engineers in the company, however, now are worried they manufactured a hydraulic system for a huge gun.

This claim, like the previous one, is totally wrong and goes against the truth. No one will believe a respectable British company would manufacture a system according

to known specifications for use in petrochemical industries, get an export license for it, and then actually transport it to Iraq without the company being certain about the various aspects of its use.

Everyone knows Iraq has huge capabilities in the field of long-range missile weaponry. It launched the al-'Abid missile system into space. Does someone who has these cababilities need a gun of the type imagined by the British customs officers? No.

The British customs officers, when they confiscated the pipes, to justify this illegal behavior claimed these pipes come within the list of hardware subject to the 1989 export monitoring system.

This claim is untrue from both scientific and legal aspects. From the scientific aspect, and as is evident from the previous information, the pipes are specialized for use in the petrochemical project, and therefore cannot be considered hardware. From the legal point of view, since these pipes are not hardware, they cannot be included on a list of hardware equipment and, consequently, they are not subject to the abovementioned monitoring system.

What confirms this is the British Trade Department previously explained that the company does not need to get an export license.

Accepting this British position means the British authorities could characterize any pieces of equipment purchased by Iraq from the British market as hardware, regardless of their nature and type, as long as these authorities believe this equipment can be used for military purposes.

The list of banned goods for export to Iraq therefore becomes open-ended and endless, and could include everything British factories and industries produce.

The practical result of such a strange theory is to prevent British companies from dealing with Iraq in all fields.

This behavior also should be considered by the countries in the region in their trade relations with Britain in the future.

Correction to Railway Department on New Station

JN2304112590

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Railway Department on New Station, Rail Linkage", published in the 23 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 13:

Make sourceline read: Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 22 Apr 90 (correcting date)

President Receives Phone Call From YAR's Salih

JN2304172490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call today from his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih briefed leader President Saddam Husayn on progress in efforts to achieve unity between the two parts of Yemen and reaching this noble goal as soon as possible. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also briefed leader President Saddam Husayn on the practical and rapid measures taken by leaders of the two parts reflecting their determination to proceed toward unity as soon as possible and fulfill the aspirations of the one Yemeni people.

Leader President Saddam Husayn praised and blessed the efforts and steps taken so far and wished the Yemenis prosperity and progress. Leader President Saddam Husayn and President Colonel Salih exchanged warm brotherly greetings for 'Id al-Fitr.

Oil Minister, Egyptian Counterpart Discuss Output

JN2304170390 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, April 23, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, met here today his Egyptian counterpart, 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil.

They exchanged views on oil markets and recent decline in oil prices due to increased production by some OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries.

After the meeting, the two ministers told journalists that they have agreed on the need for putting an end to unlimited production through enforcing production agreements that limit every country's quota.

They pointed out the need for continuing cooperation among the OPEC and the non-OPEC countries to preserve stability in production and reasonable prices.

It is worth mentioning that the two ministers are in Amman to attend the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) oil ministers' second session that was opened earlier today.

Ramadan Receives Message From Turkish Premier

JN2104164390 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, April 21, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council's member and first deputy premier, received here today a message from Turkish premier, Yildirim Akbulut.

Turkish ambassador to Iraq delivered the message to Mr Ramadan during a meeting held here today.

INA learnt that the message dealt with bilateral relations and the Turkish premier's visit to Iraq in the near future during which the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee would meet.

Syrian Front Greets President on Anniversary

JN2204084390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from the Political Bureau of the National Front for the Salvation of Syria [NFSS] on the second aniversary of the liberation of al-Faw, city of sacrifice and gate of the great victory. Following is the text of the cable:

Esteemed Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces: On the glorious anniversary of the liberation of al-Faw, the NFSS extends its congratulations to you, fraught with pride and dignity.

The heroism of the Iraqi Army on the battlefield was inspired by the courage of leader Saddam Husayn and his assured wisdom. The spirit of Ramadan has imbued the heart of the leader and his soldiers with patience and courage; a light from Badr [the first Islamic battle] has illuminated their souls with determination and sacrifice; and God granted victory to His followers and ordered them to hound His enemies, killing some of them and capturing others.

The pure blood sacrificed by the Iraqi soldiers on the land of al-Faw was the shield that preserved the honor of Arabism from harm, and the robe of Islam from filth.

Mr. President: While the people in Syria share with Iraq and its valiant Army the second anniversary of the victory celebrations, they, at the same time, assert their solidarity with you against the U.S.-Zionist-British onslaught. Our people in Syria will have another al-Faw to purge their lands of the disgrace of Hafiz Asad, the guilty traitor of Arabism. Glory and dignity to our valiant Iraqi people, their brave army and courageous leader. Mercy and immortality to our faithful martyrs.

Signed: The NFSS Political Bureau.

Paper on 'Tangible, Practical' Arab Solidarity

JN2404104290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that effective Arab solidarity derives its credibility from the massive and huge mobilization of Arab resources to prevent any enemy from slighting or ignoring them.

In an article today the paper points out this solidarity will achieve all its objectives if accompanied by practical measures that consider a position on Arab issues the basis for the form that political and economic relations take with this or that foreign country, whether negatively or positively.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Declaring the adoption of such positions toward those who deal with quarters hostile to the Arab nation, or even threatening the adoption of such joint Arab positions, will become one of the elements to deter hostile actions and defeat and destroy this evil action. The paper praises Arab solidarity with Iraq against the Zionist campaign.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: This Arab solidarity was bolstered by Iraq's warning to its Arab brothers not only about the seriousness of the threats facing them, but also of the need for their solidarity to be effective now and in the future and for it to be tangible and practical in the political and economic fields as well.

Shamir Meets Press After Knesset Appearance

No 'Innovations' to Peace Process

TA2304113690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was the guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He did not talk about the formation of a new government or any other similar issues, but about immigration, the Iraqi threat, and the Air Force helicopter collision which took the lives of seven Israeli soldiers. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Kohen] In an impromptu news conference at the end of the session, the prime minister was asked: Now that an understanding has been reached with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], do you intend to introduce any changes in the peace initiative? Shamir's reply was: I am not planning any innovations at the moment. We are at the beginning of the road, and we must follow the course we set for ourselves. Another question posed to the prime minister was: Does the agreement with SHAS call for giving a positive response to Baker?

[Shamir] Not at all. The understanding we reached is that the Likud continues to adhere to the same peace initiative decided on by the government of which SHAS also was part. Within the confines of the activity to promote this initiative, there also may be differences of opinion between us and U.S. representatives or between us and Arab representatives. On the contrary, it is clear from the outset there will be differences of opinion; it cannot be otherwise. The test will lie in overcoming those differences and making progress. [end recording]

Views Iraqi Threat, U.S. Peace Role

TA2304174690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Apr 90

[By Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel is doing everything possible to be prepared to meet the Iraqi threat. Israel has limits imposed on it, but it is preparing on two levels: politically and militarily, that is in bolstering our forces. In addition to nonconventional arms, in the Middle East there is a gigantic conventional arms race We are searching for elements in the Middle East pre[illegible]red to discuss disarmament of the region with us, but they do not exist at present.

The prime minister told reporters after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session he still is committed to the peace initiative and continues to advance it. He told this to the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party and its spiritual leader. A commitment to the peace initiative, however, does not mean saying yes to Baker.

[Begin Shamir recording] The peace initiative does not have anything in it about Baker and nothing about this or that meeting. It contains the initiative's aims and the route to be taken toward implementing the initiative, as well as the stages to be gone through. There can be differences between us and our Arab interlocutors and with our American friends over the route to be taken and the stages to be adopted. Loyalty and commitment to the peace initiative does not oblige us to say yes to everything we are told. [end recording]

In the committee, the prime minister criticized the United States. He said: We asked the U.S. for help in promoting the peace initiative, but it rallied its diplomatic forces on the PLO's side. We therefore differ with it over the path it took. Asked whether anything new is expected to advance the peace initiative, the prime minister said he is not planning anything. He rejected a unity government. At this stage, he believes, a government that can manage state affairs should be set up.

[Begin Shamir recording] We reinstituted the system of unity governments. The last unity government was toppled by one of its partners. I therefore do not think I should, or even can, restore with the same partner the same set up which he toppled. We therefore first must set up a government capable of ruling and running state affairs. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Soviet Emigrants Since 1 Jan

TA2304193290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] The number of emigrants who have arrived from the Soviet Union since the beginning of 1990 stands at 24,200. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 23 April states "the total number of emigrants who have arrived in Israel since the beginning of this year stands at 28,740, including about 25,000 from the Soviet Union."] Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports this data was released by the prime minister at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting today.

Further on Likud-SHAS Accord

Reply to Baker Disputed

TA2304192290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] The agreement signed last night between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leaders Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and Minister Arye Der'i includes two secret parts. The first part, put in writing and referring only generally to the political issue, is supposed to be signed by all Likud ministers. It states: The government will take the appropriate steps to preserve Israel's security and prevent a war, and will pursue the peace process as a top-priority national task according to the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

But there also is a second, more secret, part, which was not written down and was defined as oral clarifications by the prime minister to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. This part was finalized in a clandestine meeting between Ministers Der'i, Meridor, and Olmert on Saturday [21 April]; it was agreed this part would not be publicized in order to avoid scaring off the right-wing parties, according to SHAS.

In this agreement, discussed in last night's meeting between the prime minister and Rabbi Yosef, the prime minister outlined the practical moves that will be made toward promoting the elections in the territories and the peace inititive. Shamir told Rabbi Yosef he will find a way to give Baker an affirmative reply through explanations on behalf of the entire government, but without saying yes explicitly.

During the meeting, Rabbi Yosef became convinced that, after the recent political crisis, Shamir will no longer fear the constraints ministers, because Minister David Levi sides with him and may even be the foreign minister in the next government; Ari'el Sharon is in fact outside the government; and Yitzhaq Moda'i's power has waned considerably. All this was understood by Rabbi Yosef. In addition, he was made to understand if a unity government is formed, Shim'on Peres no longer will be able to breathe down Yitzhaq Shamir's neck, and the Israeli delegation to Cairo will be united and will speak with one voice.

Furthermore, SHAS leaders believe if a new unity government is created, Yitzhaq Shamir will be able to act without fear and to pursue the political process in cooperation with Yitzhaq Rabin. Therefore, SHAS' Council of Torah Scholars decided last night to change its mind and support the Likud.

Replying to my question on why the details of the political agreement have not been publicized, SHAS leaders said tonight as long as Shim'on Peres still has two days left to form a government, the risk of the right-wing parties abandoning Yitzhaq Shamir remains valid. Since SHAS strives to establish a national unity government headed by Shamir, the agreement will be made public only after the president tasks Shamir with forming the next government. If that happens, they will no longer need the right-wing parties—which is precisely what happened when the former unity government was formed.

As one of the SHAS heads put it: This time Shamir will say—moderates inside, extremists out. The SHAS leaders said if Yitzhaq Shamir misleads them this time, he will pay a heavy price by losing the entire kitty. We do not support him personally, they added; we support the Likud to set up a unity government.

[Later in the newscast, the announcer states: "We have just received a reaction from the Prime Minister's Office saying the following: There are absolutely no commitments other than those stated in the Likud-SHAS agreement entitled, 'the Framework of Cooperation Between the Likud and SHAS.' It is therefore clear, continues the prime minister's statement, that there is no affirmative reply to Baker."]

SHAS Support 'Unconditional'

TA2404064490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Interior Affairs Minister Arye Der'i by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, Minister Arye Der'i.

[Der'i] Good morning.

[Friedman] Only a month ago, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef described the former national unity government, in which the Labor Party was a partner and from which parties right of the Likud were absent, as a most extremist government. Here is SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] assisting in the establishment of a narrow-based government without the Labor Party and with Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet. Is this, in your opinion, a moderate government that will prevent bloodshed and promote the peace process?

[Der'i] [passage omitted] We have reached the conclusion that as long as Shim'on Peres has a mandate to form the next government, he will not opt for a national unity government. We therefore decided only Shamir—when tasked by the president—stands a reasonable chance of forming a national unity government.

[Friedman] I fail to see these three words—national unity government—in the agreement between you and the Likud.

[Der'i] Our agreement with Mr. Shamir states we will support a government headed by him.

[Friedman] Even a narrow-based one?

[Der'i] Sometimes a narrow-based government is the means toward a unity government. Parties decide to establish unity governments when they realize they have no alternative; this is what happened in the last two governments. We therefore did not pose this as a condition, and we are not doing so now. I will say this, however: If Mr. Shamir can set up a narrow-based government whose guidelines include the promotion of the peace process and which comprises the moderate parties, and if the right-wing parties agree to this government's guidelines, it will be even better. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Do you really believe the right-wing parties will embrace these guidelines?

[Der'i] Despite the problems and the public revulsion toward the recent internal political events, something good has happened in this country: Both parties realized a draw is inevitable, that it is no accident, but a result of

the fact the nation is divided in just that fashion. Any government, therefore, must reflect this situation.

Mr. Shamir was given our mandate without any conditions. I believe—and I have heard as much from most of the Likud ministers—that even if a narrow-based government is established at first, it is certain eventually to lead to a national unity government—provided, of course, the Alignment joins the partnership. I think there is a tendency in the Alignment, too, to opt for this path, rather than for the opposition or early elections.

[Levi] What did you mean by saying Mr. Shamir received your mandate without any conditions? Did he not make a commitment to give a favorable reply to Baker's questions?

[Der'i] No. There have been reports to this effect, but what we do have is the Israeli Government's political initiative. This initiative was not conceived by Baker; it is Mr. Shamir's and Mr. Rabin's. During the past year, due to the fact the Israeli Government spoke with two voices, Baker proposed a formula that represented an ostensible compromise between the Alignment and the Likud. Mr. Shamir refused to accept this formula, saying: I will not go to Egypt as long as our delegation speaks with two voices; I fear we will be isolated there, with each part of our delegation saying different things.

Mr. Shamir stands firm behind his peace initiative, and he has convinced Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef if the Israeli Government is unanimous and united, and if it is willing to make far-reaching concessions, this initiative can be promoted, even without the compromises made to Baker. The only condition is that we all stand united.

[Friedman] Mr. Der'i, let us have your scenario on how the Israeli Government can promote the peace process without saying yes to Baker.

[Der'i] Gladly. The Government of Israel will decide to conduct a meeting between Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and an Israeli delegation. The purpose of this meeting is to promote that same initiative in which they are also interested: elections in the territories. So far, no one disagrees.

[Friedman] Will this Palestinian delegation include deportees?

[Der'i] One moment: Can we not promote the peace process if there are no deportees in that delegation? What is the connection between deportees and elections in the territories?

[Friedman] This is a condition posed by the Arabs, and in the past, SHAS subscribed to this formula. A letter from Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, which was submitted to the leaders of the two major parties before the government was toppled, stated an affirmative reply, as formulated by our foreign minister, Mr. Arens, will be given to U.S. Secretary of State Baker.

[Der'i] The deportees will not be a problem. But with all due respect, not every condition posed by the Arabs or the Americans must be accepted. What is important is the stance Israel adopts. Even if we make concessions, I believe if we are united and do not try to undermine each other's efforts, we will be able to make progress.

These are the things of which Rabbi Yosef became convinced in his talks with the prime minister. There is no secret addendum and there is no secret agreement; all reports to that effect are just sensationalism. Mr. Shamir provided Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef with clarifications on how he intends to promote the peace process, mainly on his determination to pursue the course of his initiative.

[Friedman] What is the content of these clarifications?

[Der'i] It was a conversation between them.

[Friedman] You must know the Tehiya, Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, and others are most interested in this very part, in what was said between Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and Shamir.

[Der'i] I do not think all these people are interested. [passage omitted]

[Levi] In any event, not all the Likud ministers have signed the agreement between you and the Likud. Is it possible the constraints camp will object to the implementation of this agreement?

[Der'i] You must stop thinking along the lines to which you became accustomed in the past year. There is no longer a constraints camp. The members of that camp have dispersed.

[Levi] Minister David Levi is not pleased with the agreement.

[Der'i] Look, the agreement has been signed by several Cabinet members. We did not ask that everyone sign.

[Friedman] Do you insist David Levi sign?

[Der'i] We do not insist on anything. David Levi will sign.

[Friedman] If he does not?

[Der'i] Then he will not. [passage omitted]

Arens Objects to Unity Government With Alignment

TA2404080790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said this morning he objects to the establishment of a national unity government with the Alignment: It can be said, in an understatement, that the 18-month experience of a unity government did not succeed, and that the appropriate lessons must be learned.

Roni Sofer, our correspondent in the south, reports Arens added that if a partnership with the Alignment is

to be discussed at all, it should be done only after a narrow-based government headed by the Likud is established.

Arens further stated he has no criticism of the way in which the prime minister secured the agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] or of the Likud's steps in recent weeks. Arens made these remarks during a visit to Dimona.

Pazner on Shamir 'Cooperation' With Jewish League

TA2304120290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Apr 90 p A2

[By Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] "Fiddlesticks!" This was the reaction of Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, to reports of alleged cooperation between Yitzhaq Shamir and Me'ir Kahane, who used to head the Jewish Defense League [JDL] in the United States.

Avi Pazner said that "Shamir is known for his opposition to Kahane and to the man's actions, not just in Israel but also in the United States. Therefore, there is not a grain of truth in the claim that Shamir cooperated with him in his public activities for Soviet Jewry at any stage."

On the other hand, Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen admitted that before she was an MK, in the late sixties and early seventies, she certainly encouraged Me'ir Kahane and his men to act in behalf of Soviet Jewry. She stressed, however, that "violent activities against Soviet institutions were never discussed." MK Kohen added that at the time, the JDL had considered kidnapping hostages in the event of a death sentence being imposed on one of the defendants in the Leningrad trials [Soviet Jews who attempted to hijack a plane to Israel in the early 1970's] and demanding that the sentence be revoked.

Ministry on U.S. Criticism of House Purchase

TA2304201890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Israel regrets the U.S. criticism of the role played by the Construction and Housing Ministry in the financing of the purchase of a house in the Christian quarter. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem told our correspondent Arye Golan it is right for the Jews to live in any location and to buy and rent property in any part of Eretz Yisra'el, particularly Jerusalem.

These remarks were made in response to the U.S. State Department's statement which said the Construction and Housing Ministry's participation in the financing of the house in the Old City is disturbing and objectionable.

Soviet Official Terms Settlement as 'War Crime'

TA2204114690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Apr 90 p A2

[From Moscow by Walter Ruby]

[Text] Yuriy Reshetov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Humanitarian Problems Section, stated on Friday that Soviet immigrants returning to the Soviet Union could be tried for war crimes. The senior official said that, as the Soviet Union sees it, settling in Judaea and Samaria is a war crime.

Interviewed by MA'ARIV Editor 'Ido Dissenchik and this correspondent, Reshetov said the Soviet Union would soon enact a law that would allow Soviet immigrants to retain their Soviet citizenship. While stressing the USSR's wish to remain on good terms with the immigrants and its support of the principle of dual citizenship "for humanitarian reasons," Reshetov warned: "If a Soviet Jew came to a Black Sea resort (that is, went to the Soviet Union on vacation) and we received certain information proving he had taken part in war crimes, we would definitely consider him a war criminal." Reshetov said the Soviet authorities might arrest and convict such an Israeli tourist, even if he had not retained his Soviet citizenship. "The question of citizenship has no relevance," Reshetov said. "Israelis know very well that Adolf Eichmann was taken to and sentenced by Israel, although he committed the crimes before the establishment of the state.... According to the international penal code, criminals or accomplices involved in international crimes may be brought to trial according to international penal jurisprudence."

Asked whether such a statement would not deter newly arrived immigrants and plain Israeli folks from visiting the Soviet Union, Reshetov replied: "That is possible."

Dugit Settlement Connected to Electricity, Water

TA2304152190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Five mobile homes were installed today in the Dugit settlement in the northern Gaza Strip. Members of the Dugit nucleus and the Hof 'Aza Regional Council are now connecting the homes to the local electricity, sewage, and water network in anticipation of the arrival of the first families. Ten more mobile homes will be brought to Dugit in the coming days.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has closed the outskirts of Dugit to prevent Peace Now members from staging a demonstration on the site.

Jerusalem Settlers Ordered To Evacuate Building

TA2304174290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] The registrar of the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, Hana Ben-'Ami, has issued an eviction order against 'Ateret Kohanim and four of its members, ordering them

to evacuate the building in the Christian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem within 48 hours. Ben-'Ami is also the head of the Executors Office in Jerusalem.

Lawyers of the Greek Orthodox Church requested that the settlers be evicted quickly. The settlers now have to decide whether to appeal the decision. Three courts and 10 judges have held hearings on the case in the past 10 days.

'Unprecedented' Protest of Old City 'Occupation'

TA2404090390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 12

[By Haim Shapiro]

[Excerpt] In a demonstration unprecendented in recent memory, the heads of all the major Christian churches in the Holy Land issued a joint statement yesterday saying they will close their churches and ring funeral peals to protest the "government backed" occupation by Jewish settlers of the building in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

The church leaders—including the Greek Orthodox, Latin and Armenian Patriarchs, the Franciscan Custos, the Coptic, Syrian and Ethiopian Archbishops, the Anglican Bishop, the Greek Catholic Patriarchal Vicar and the Lutheran Propst—claimed the settlement "endangers the survival of all Christian communities in the Holy City."

To demonstrate their concern, they undertook to close the doors of all churches in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem and elsewhere in the Holy Land from 9 a.m. Friday until the following day, and ring the peals of mourning on the hour from 9 a.m. until noon.

The Religious Affairs Ministry warned last night that closing the churches would be a "serious infringement" of the status quo between the religious communities, which the churches themselves are anxious to protect.

The ministry said it upholds the right of Jews to live in any part of Israel, just as members of other religious communities have that right.

The fate of the "20 families" occupying the disputed building, the ministry said, was to be determined by the ruling of the High Court of Justice. During the visit of Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer to Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I, the patriarch himself expressed his confidence in the Israel judicial system, the ministry said.

It also noted that the building in question was not a holy site, nor had it been used for any religious ceremonies. The dispute was purely a civil one, the ministry said.

In their statement, the church leaders said: "On Wednesday April 11, in Holy Week, 150 settlers, many of them armed, forcibly occupied St. John's Hospice, the property of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. This action was funded, at least in great part, by the government, and there have been visits by government ministers and parliamentary authorities to encourage the settlers."

The statement continued: "Subsequently it appears that high level governmental authorities intervened to restrain the police from carrying our judicial eviction orders."

The settlement, it said, "caused grievous disruption to some of the most solemn rites of the Christian religion, at the holiest shrine of Christendom, the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre Church," and continued to "provoke almost daily violent incidents in and around the area...and has occasioned the presence of numerous armed men in the same restricted area."

Freedom of access to the Holy Sepulchre and freedom of worship within it was being threatened by the continued occupation, the statement said.

The church leaders added that the settlers' action also jeopardized the integrity, and cultural and religious autonomy of the Christian, Armenian and Moslem Quarters, "in violation of the centuries-old status and character of these quarters...honoured by all previous rulers of Jerusalem, and the international community (and which the Israeli government authorities have repeatedly pledged themselves to uphold)."

On Sunday, the churches plan to hold a day of prayer on behalf of Jerusalem's Christian community, and Christians throughout the world have been invited to do so too. [passage omitted]

USSR Said To Invite Foreign Minister To Visit

TA2204102490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 90 p A2

[By 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Soviet Union will invite the Israeli foreign minister for a visit after a stable government is set up in Israel. Aleksandr Yakovlev, a senior member of the Soviet leadership close to Gorbachev, stated this in a meeting with Professor Ilya Zemtsov, an Israeli Sovietologist and director of the International Research Center on Contemporary Society, who visited Moscow as a guest of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

In the meeting conducted last week in Moscow, Yakovlev stated: "We have always known the Shamir government to react negatively to outside plans. The time has come for you to come up with a new plan of your own, seeing that the current peace plan is based on dated notions, such as autonomy and elections in the territories. The Americans are your friends. So, why do you not accept the Baker plan?"

A few months ago, Zemtsov accompanied 'Ezer Weizman to his meeting with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Yakovlev noted the normalization of relations with Israel would be done gradually because of the Soviet need to maintain the balance between conservatives and reformists in the party, so as to prevent what he termed fratricide.

Yakovlev pointed out "for years we preached against U.S. imperialism and against Israel and Zionism. We now realize this was a distorted description, and we have come to value your attitude toward the Soviet people. But the Soviet man in the street, the nationalist movements in particular, got hooked on the preachings against Israel. Although Pamyat is a small and nonrepresentative movement, its reactionary slogans fall on the man in the street's attentive ears, and we do not know how to undo the image we built with our own hands for many years."

The senior Soviet leader called on Israel to help change Soviet public attitudes toward it, which could be done with an Israeli move in the direction of a peaceful solution with the Arabs. According to Yakovlev, "if Israel moved closer to Soviet policy that would help us explain to the man in the street the logic of resuming relations with you."

In the meantime, Yakovlev promised to examine the request to put another building at the disposal of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow to alleviate the harsh working conditions of Israeli staffers processing prospective immigrants. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 22 April adds Yakovlev also said the Soviet Union would allow Israel "to send another 10 diplomatic representatives to Moscow to assist in the processing of prospective immigrants."]

Noting the Soviet Union wants to refrain from using power in Lithuania, Yakovlev added: "Unfortunately, the Lithuanian leaders want to go down in history as the men who led their country to independence. They are disregarding, however, the interests of cooperation between the Soviet and Lithuanian peoples."

Yakovlev admitted: "We do not have experience in democracy. Therefore, our reactions are slow; we make decisions and unmake them."

Zemtsov reported on the meeting to Arye Levin, head of the Israeli delegation in Moscow, and Yosef Guvrin, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general for East Europe.

Zemtsov lectured on internal developments in the Soviet Union to various research institutes of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. He is organizing a visit to Israel by the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and his deputy. The two are members of the Presidential Council [as published], which enjoys a very privileged status in the Soviet establishment.

FRG Paper Interviews Herzog on German Unification

AU2304143790 Hamburg WELT AM SONNTAG in German 22 Apr 90 p 30

[Interview with Israeli President Hayim Herzog by Peter Bacher in Jerusalem titled: "I Would Like To Go to Moscow Very Much"; date not given]

[Text] [Bacher] Mr. President, looking back at your official visit to the FRG three years ago, what is the strongest impression you remember?

[Herzog] The most impressive moment was in Bergen-Belsen, when I unveiled the rock there which I had brought from Jerusalem. President Richard von Weizsaecker was standing beside me. This scene was of a historic significance, which is difficult to comprehend.

[Bacher] You were also in Berlin at that time.

[Herzog] Yes, there it was particularly moving for me to see the prison of Ploetzensee. I was the first Israeli to lay a wreath at a monument for Germans who fought against Nazism.

[Bacher] If you now think of the upcoming reunification, what are your feelings?

[Herzog] I belong to those who take exception to others advising us how to deal with our problems—in particular if they do not know all the facts. Therefore, I would like to refrain from commenting. In addition, the division is not a result of the Nazi terror or of the holocaust, but of the cold war. And what about the GDR? The GDR's transition to democracy is certainly a big improvement for the situation in Europe.

[Bacher] Nobel Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel recently commented on the situation by saying: "The Jew in me is afraid."

[Herzog] I think this is understandable. Even Germans have expressed their concern. Recently I heard Guenter Grass. There are also social democrats who hesitate. Thus, if millions of Germans are concerned, this must have an echo among the Jewish people.

[Bacher] The entire development would be hardly conceivable without Gorbachev. What does Gorbachev's policy mean for Israel?

[Herzog] This is very difficult. For Israel the most important aspect of Gorbachev's policy is the fact he has permitted the emigration of Russian Jews. The reunification with this big and important Jewish community, which has been separated from Jews in general and from Israel in particular, is something wonderful. For this we should be very grateful to Gorbachev.

[Bacher] Have you had personal contacts with Gorbachev? Will you go to Moscow?

[Herzog] I would like to go to Moscow very much, but this depends on a Soviet decision on the reestablishment

of diplomatic relations with Israel. Frankly—I cannot understand why they have not done this yet. Diplomatic relations with another country do not mean, after all, that one approves of that country's policy.

[Bacher] Can you also imagine that sometimes Israel's friends find it difficult to explain the policy, the results of which we see on television and in other media in connection with the intifadah?

[Herzog] I think we are indeed not living up to our responsibility of supplying information fairly! —But the media are not fair to us, either. Even for Jimmy Carter or for the president of Ireland, Fitzgerald—who visited me recently—it was completely new to them that there is civil war among the Palestinians: Within one week nine Palestinians were killed in the newly occupied territories, eight of them by other Palestinians—and that in the most brutal way. Three pregnant women had their stomachs slit open. Since last year statistics show that more Palestinians have been killed by their own compatriots than by Israeli troops.

[Bacher] On television the world mostly sees pictures of Israeli soldiers who are brutally enforcing their rule.

[Herzog] Please, do not forget: Israel is a free democracy with the right to free coverage. But who knows, for instance, that about 70 soldiers, including high-ranking officers up to the rank of colonel, have been court-martialed because they exceeded the limits imposed for the maintenance of law and order. No, in this respect we really need not be ashamed. Regarding Israel and the PLO, it is easy to say: Sit down and talk to the PLO. The question is: Which PLO, who leads it, what guarantees do we have it will keep its word? If the PLO really wanted to alleviate our fears, it could just remove the three paragraphs from the Palestinian charter, which demand nothing less than the destruction of Israel.

[Bacher] Which Arab country will be the next one that will make peace with Israel, in your view?

[Herzog] Logic and facts say Jordan.

[Bacher] Mr. President, according to the Basic Law, this is your last term of office. Do you intend to return to political life, like your predecessor Navon?

[Herzog] No. Even Navon admitted he had made a mistake when he returned to politics. Something like this has a negative effect. No, I want to dedicate my time to writing books in the future.

Answering my concluding question of whether he is a happy president despite all the problems, Hayim Herzog tells a story from 1949. At that time, Hayim Weizman described the difficulties of his office in Jerusalem to U.S. President Henry Truman with the sentence: "You are well off, you are president of 200 million people in the United States. But I am just one of 2 million presidents in Israel." Which is to mean: Here everybody feels like a little president....

Scientific Cooperation Accord Signed With Austria

TA2404050190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Jerusalem, Austria and Israel have signed the first agreement on scientific cooperation between the two countries. The accord calls for establishing joint projects in the fields of agriculture, medicine, microelectronics, and computers.

Planned U.S. Arms Sales to Arabs 'Appalling'

TA2404092390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 12

[By diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Israeli senior officials are upset about what has been termed an American arms-selling binge to Arab states. According to U.S. reports, the Bush administration is considering military sales worth $8.8 billion worth of sales to three Persian Gulf states plus another $4.4 billion to Egypt.

The arms sales to Arab states is part of a $30 billion package the Bush administration has notified Congress it intends to sell over the next year, as superpowers accelerate sales to keep their respective defence industries going in the post-cold war period.

Senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office termed the U.S. intentions as "appalling." Informed sources say a secret Defence Ministry memorandum is circulating, outlining the options for an Israeli political response on whether to oppose the U.S. arms move, which Congress was informed about two months ago. Final decisions on how to respond are said to be held up due to the absence of a fully functioning defence minister. [passage omitted]

Objections to the U.S. sale are more related to the quantity of the sale rather than to specific components. "The first time they looked at the list a couple of months ago, people were looking at the parts, but now they are looking at the aggregate and they are concerned," one informed source said. It is possible that Israel will raise the arms sale issue this week in Elat with Richard Clark, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political-Military Affairs. Clark is here leading a U.S. delegation to Israel for the semi-annual Joint Policy Military Group talks on strategic cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Update on 23 Apr Incidents in Territories

TA2304101190

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 23 April in a page 6 report by Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem notes that "for the first time since the beginning of the intifadah, an entire town disobeyed the orders of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The latest leaflet issued by the leadership called on residents to observe a two-day strike, yesterday and today. The local leadership in Nabulus ordered residents to ignore

the leaflet, and all shops and businesses were indeed open in Nabulus yesterday. Many residents expressed satisfaction with the tough stance adopted by the local leaders.

"Tulkarm Arabs also attempted to defy the strike order and open stores, but claimed that soldiers forced merchants to close the shops. Masked men roamed the streets of Qalqilyah, telling shopkeepers to conduct business despite the orders of the Unified National Command.

"Some accredit the latest leaflet to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and this could explain the wide opposition it met. The PFLP has demanded an exacerbation of the intifadah, while the other groups favor a moderate struggle.

"Four people were reportedly beaten in the Balatah refugee camp after a confrontation with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The four were hospitalized in al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

"A general strike was fully observed in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Local residents reported that 17 Arabs were wounded, Muhammad al-Qasawi, 10, of al-Shati', who was mortally injured by a bullet in the head and transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Arab sources reported 13 injured by rubber bullets in Khan Yunus, including Nid'a Muhammad, 6, and Marion Saqawi, 80. Muhammad Abu-Khatab lost an eye and was hospitalized in an eye hospital.

"Severe riots took place in Khan Yunus following processions and demonstrations held by residents. An Army jeep ran over a four-year-old girl from the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood, who was crossing the street. The girl, Salma 'Omar, was hospitalized in al-Ahali. The IDF spokesman at the Southern Command reported four injured residents in the Gaza Strip yesterday."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 23 April in a page 6 report by Roni Shaqed, Hayim Broida, and David Regev report that "the security forces have encountered a hitherto unprecedented phenomenon in the territories: a writ of appointment given to intifadah activists by their operators. The Shin Bet and the police are interrogating two youths from Nabulus who were arrested in Jaljuliyah village in the Triangle on Friday [20 April] while on their way to carry out a 'mission' pertaining to the intifadah. The two men were in possession of a 'document' giving them the 'right' to act as they see fit. The document stipulates that 'whoever disobeys them' places 'his life in danger.'"

The report later adds that "an improvised explosive charge went off in Nabulus' Faysal Street yesterday evening as an Army patrol drove by. There were no casualties and no damage was caused."

"A Rafah resident, Yehya Mas'ud Abu-Nuli, 27, was seriously injured yesterday morning by masked men who suspected him of cooperating with Israel. He sustained numerous stab wounds, and his arms and legs were broken.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 April in a page A1 report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin reports that "the security forces in the Gaza Strip discovered a 40-meter-long tunnel leading from the Israeli side of Rafah to the Egyptian side of the border. The tunnel was constructed to smuggle wanted members of the strike committees, weapons, and goods from the Gaza Strip to Egypt. This was stated in a charge sheet submitted to the Gaza military court against two Rafah residents, currently under arrest."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew in a page 1 report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami states that "IDF troops will only enter the homes of residents of the West Bank—but not the Gaza Strip—under orders from an officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel or higher.

"Security sources reported that the new order was handed down by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, after the Judaea and Samaria legal adviser, Colonel Ahaz Ben-Ari, ruled that the entry of soldiers into residents' homes in the territories is illegal. The regulation stipulates that the soldiers can only enter a home if the soldiers have reason to believe suspicious activity is taking place inside.

"Another recommendation, which went into effect in the Central Command two months ago, states that in the wake of stone throwing incidents, trees should not be uprooted but merely trimmed. It was also reported that authorization from the commander of the Central Command is required for the uprooting of more than three trees."

2 Arabs Die, 1 Critically Wounded 23 Apr

TA2304194990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Musa al-'Iqi, 14, from the village of Bayt Immar—where a bus was attacked last night—died this morning at East Jerusalem's al-Maqasid Hospital. The youth sustained critical injuries during disturbances in his village. This was reported by our correspondent, Beni Liss.

In disturbances in the Khan Yunus refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Mahmud Musa, 27, was critically wounded while attempting to snatch a soldier's gun. Musa is known to be an active inciter. He was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

A resident of the al-Shati' refugee camp, who was wounded in yesterday's disturbances and evacuated to Sheba Medical Center, died today of his wounds.

A curfew was clamped on the village of Halhul after shots were fired at a bus last night. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 23 April adds: "A molotov cocktail was hurled at an Army patrol in the vicinity of the al-Azhar school in Gaza. There were no casualties."]

Bus Bomb Causes Damage, No Casualties

TA2404103790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] An explosive device went off this morning on a No. 475 bus, which was on its way from Tel Aviv to Lod. No one was hurt, but the bus was damaged. The device had apparently been placed on a luggage rack in the rear of the bus.

Gaza Commander on Casualty Rate, IDF Activities

TA2404110490 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 18 Apr 90 p 8

[By Ya'el Shapira]

[Text] "For now, there are no plans to employ recruits in operational duties in the Gaza Strip," says Brigadier General Shmu'el Zucker, the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip. According to him, the few recruits who will serve in the Gaza Strip will be employed in guarding official buildings and serving as reinforcements during the weekends. Next year's work plan also promises reductions in the number of reserve soldiers employed in routine security activities in the Strip.

The end of the spring vacation for Gaza Strip students put an end to the relative quiet that prevailed recently in Gaza and was termed as "surprising, relative to the intifadah" by Brig. Gen. Zucker. According to him, the recent curfew imposed on Land Day had a positive effect on activities related to prayers on the Temple Mount, where many residents of the Gaza Strip arrive on Fridays.

A significant decline in the number of fatalities has been noted in the Strip during the last six months. During the months of April through September 1989, 72 locals were killed by IDF soldiers' gunfire, with the number of fatalities reaching its peak in May when 19 Gaza Strip residents were killed. The decline was first noticeable in September 1989, when the number of fatalities dropped to six. In the months of October 1989 through March 1990, 14 people were killed, amounting to approximately one-fifth of the number of fatalities in the preceding year. A decline, though less substantive, has also been noted in the number of people who were wounded: 1,106 in the last six months, compared with 1,177 during the preceding six months.

Brig. Gen. Zucker explains the significant decline in the number of casualties by stricter observation of the regulations on opening fire. "There are strict regulations concerning the use of telescopes installed on firearms, and shots are only fired by the commanding level." Last week, an officer who is not regularly stationed in the Strip killed a Gaza Strip resident who was trying to escape in an incident in Rafah.

According to Brig. Gen. Zucker, many masked men were captured recently. During the last three weeks alone, 22 masked men were detained, and very few of them were injured while being captured. "These detentions were the result of the increased nighttime activity by the IDF," Brig. Gen. Zucker explained.

No increase has been noted in the number of people murdered by local residents. "Those killings are mainly of a criminal nature, related to things such as drugs and prostitution, but the local residents believe they are committed for collaboration with the authorities," Brig. Gen. Zucker concluded.

Protesters March to U.S., Soviet Embassies

Occupation Condemned

JN2304181590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 23 Apr (INA)—Scores of Jordanian citizens, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Bishop Iliya Khuri and a number of Jordanian deputies, staged a peaceful march here today.

Participants in the march, which headed to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, carried black flags and placards denouncing Zionist attacks against the property of the [Greek] Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and the savage practices committed by Zionist occupation troops against the Palestinian Arab people with the support of the United States.

A delegation representing the participants in the march handed a memorandum of protest to the U.S. charge d'affairs in which they denounced the U.S. bias in favor of the Zionist enemy.

Afterward, the march proceeded to the Soviet Embassy in the Jordanian capital and a similar memo was handed to officials there demanding a halt to Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

Further on Appeals

JN2404081790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 90 p 3

[By P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim and Christian communities in Jordan joined hands Monday to stage a short march through the heart of Amman to register a strong protest with the United States as well as the Soviet Union against Israeli actions in occupied Jerusalem and the April 12 assault by Israeli forces on Christian clergymen in the Holy City, including Greek Orthodox Patriarch Thiodhoros I.

In identical appeals delivered to the American and Soviet embassies in Amman, the two communities, represented by the General Islamic Congress on Jerusalem, the Catholic Church, the Inter-Islamic Council, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Royal Committee for Jerusalem and the Arab Orthodox Renaissance Society, expressed concern over the Israeli actions in Jerusalem, "especially the occupation of the Orthodox church buildings by extremist Zionist and Jewish settlers encouraged by the Israeli occupation authorities.

"These arbitrary practices call for the big powers, especially your government, to interfere to prevent these aggressions and put an end to the illegal practices taken against the pilgrims' hospice located in the vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre Church, and evacuate these settlers and restore peace to the religious places," the memorandum said. "We regret and condemn the brutal aggressions committed by these groups against His Beatitude the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem," it added.

"We hope that your government would condemn such irresponsible actions which threaten the freedom of worship and comply with the Israeli plan to Judaise the Holy City of Jerusalem and demolish its Muslim and Christian features," it said.

The silent protest action which preceded the delivery of the appeals involved about 100 people holding banners condemning the Israeli violence against the Greek Orthodox patriarch and urging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to grant "equal right of return to Jews and Palestinians." The reference was to the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and possibilities that the bulk of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at the expense of the Palestinians.

Senior police officers accompanied the marchers from the starting point at the Second Circle in Jabal Amman and about 30 policemen in riot gear were on the alert in front of the American as well as Soviet embassies. Lower House of Parliament members Mansur Murad, Dhib Marji and Bassam Haddadin were among the protesters.

Patrick Theros, the charge d'affaires of the American embassy, crossed over to the other side of the street in front of the diplomatic mission to receive the memorandum from the protesters. Anglican church Bishop Iliya Khuri, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committe, and Deputy Murad as well as several other clergymen had a brief exchange with the American diplomat, who promised to relay the contents of the memo to the U.S. Administration in Washington.

In their exchange with Mr. Theros, Bishop Khuri blamed the U.S. for Israeli actions in defiance of international norms and practices. "If your government wanted to stop the inhumane Israeli actions, it could," Khuri said. "But, you are the strategic ally of the Israeli government and you are to be blamed first before Israel."

At the Soviet diplomatic mission, it appeared that no senior diplomat was available to meet the protesters. The memo was handed over at the gate of the mission after about 10 minutes of silent vigil on the side of the street.

It was the second protest staged in Amman in 10 days against Israeli actions in Jerusalem. A candle-light vigil was held April 13 in front of the American embassy, and a memo addressed to U.S. President George Bush was handed over to Theros.

Church officials said they were waiting for the outcome of a court case in Jerusalem over the seizure of St Johns Hospice by settlers. The Israeli supreme court ruled earlier this week that the settlers could stay pending a final ruling on the case, which involves leasing of the property. The Israeli government revealed Sunday that it had helped the settlers with almost half of the lease amount involved.

In addition to Bishop Khuri, leading Monday's Amman march were the Rev. Constantine Qarmash of the Greek Orthodox Church, Bishop Saba Yuwakim of the Greek Catholic Church, the Rev. Salim al-Sayigh of the Roman Catholic Church and Ra'uf abu-Jabir, chairman of the Arab Orthodox Renaissance Society.

[In a similar report, Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 24 April on pp 24, 20 adds: "Bishop Iliya Khuri asked the U.S. charge d'affaires to give due attention to the memorandum addressed to his government by Muslims and Christians in Jordan. He added: We do not harbor enmity toward the U.S. people. No, the enmity that we harbor is directed toward your government which provides lavish support for Israel, our enemy.

"Deputy Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad spoke on behalf of his colleagues who make up the Democratic Bloc within the House of Representatives. He expressed support and backing for this peaceful march in defense of Arab holy sites which have become targets of Israel's encroachment.

"Murad condemned the U.S. position and its constant support for Israel. He declared that the Arab and Islamic liberation movement will not remain idle forever. It will defend its holy sites and national rights by exposing to danger U.S. interests everywhere, he added."]

Husayn, Bush Exchange Views, Congratulations

JN2304193090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush this evening during which they exchanged views on a number of issues, primarily the Middle East crisis and other current important issues in the region. President Bush also invited His Majesty King Husayn to visit Washington in the course of his majesty's attendance at the UN General Assembly's next session.

The U.S. President extended his sincere congratulations to his majesty on the occasion of the advent of 'Id al-Fitr. His majesty also congratulated the U.S. President on Easter and the release of the U.S. hostage held in Lebanon.

King Receives Phone Call From YAR President

JN2204193690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], today received a telephone call from his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The president congratulated the king on his performance of the minor pilgrimage, and they exchanged views on a number of issues related to the march of the ACC and the most important pan-Arab issues.

Jerusalem Orthodox Patriarch Thanks Husayn

JN2304211090 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] His majesty the king received a cable from Patriarch Dhiodhoros I, patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. The patriarch thanked his majesty for his honorable stand in condemning the 12th April attack on the Christian holy places in Jerusalem and the assault on the patriarch. The cable said the church is proud of his majesty's consistent support of legitimate rights and defense of just causes.

His majesty the king had earlier told THE ASSOCIATED PRESS he condemns the assault on the patriarch by Jewish extremists.

Islamic 'Leader' on Intifadah Policy, Raids

JN2104210590 Amman AL-RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 90 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Amman—Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, who calls himself the leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis organization, has said he has issued orders to his followers in the occupied Arab territories to use all types of weapons, including knives, against Israeli targets.

He said the aim of these orders—which contradict those issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—is to encourage Palestinians to take up arms to defend their faith, existence, and land, acknowledging that the Islamic Jihad has already claimed credit for stabbing an Israeli civilian in the old part of Jerusalem.

Al-Tamimi emphasized that his organization's ties with Hamas in the Gaza Strip are ties of cooperation and amity, asserting that most of the ordinary operations against Israeli targets in 1989 and 1990 were carried out by Islamic Jihad cells.

Shaykh al-Tamimi told reporters Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has the opportunity now to become a second Saladin in Palestinian history if his threat to use chemical weapons against Israel is true.

Al-Tamimi, 66, believes he might be a target for an Israeli assassination team, although the foreigners who visit him in his modest ground floor apartment are not being searched for weapons.

While blessing any attack on Israel, al-Tamimi denies his organization's fighters have launched raids across the Israeli-Jordanian cease-fire line, which has recently witnessed a series of limited attacks over the past 12 months.

He said: We are against launching operations from the East Bank to strike at the Jews. We will concentrate on internal operations. The region is apparently heading for war, and we do not want to be the cause for an explosion in the current situation.

Lebanese Detained in Syria Released 23 Apr

NC2304182890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] As a result of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's mediation efforts, nine Lebanese were released today after several years of detention in Syria. President al-Hirawi's two sons received the released Lebanese at their office in Zahlah this afternoon. They welcomed them and thanked the Syrian leadership for this good humanitarian gesture.

FRC Spokesman on Release of Belgian Hostages

NC2304201290 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 23 (AFP)—A spokesman for the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said here Monday that the key to freeing four remaining Belgian hostages it holds was the immediate release of a Palestinian imprisoned in Belgium.

His comments came a day after another group, the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, freed one of three U.S. hostages and amid reports that other westerners held in Lebanon may also be released.

Walid Khalid told Agence France-Presse at a refugee camp south of here that "positive signs from the Belgian government through Belgian media were welcome but not enough as we need official and direct notification of the release of our comrade Nasir Sa'id."

Mr. Sa'id is an FRC member jailed in Belgium in 1980 for taking part in an attack on a synagogue in Antwerp.

On April 18, Belgium's Deputy Premier Philippe Moureaux said Mr. Sa'id's release was being seriously discussed, adding that it was one of the unfortunate, necessary conditions for freeing the four Belgians.

On April 10, the FRC released three hostages—a French woman, her Belgian companion and their daughter—it held for more than two years but has kept four other Belgians it seized with them from aboard a yacht, the Silco, in the eastern Mediterranean.

The FRC, a Palestinian extremist group led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] who is close to Libya and hostile to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said the Silco captives were linked to the Israeli secret service Mossad.

The Abu-Nidal group has claimed responsibility or been blamed for many terrorist attacks in Western Europe, both against Israeli targets and 'Arafat loyalists who had made contacts with Israeli officials.

ICRC Workers 'May Be Released' on 'Id al-Fitr

NC2304201690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has announced that the two kidnapped employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] may be released on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr. In an interview with VISNEWS, he said that, following Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's appeal and after mediation efforts and consultations he has undertaken, he believes that Emanuel Christian and Elio Erriquez, the two kidnapped Swiss nationals, will be released soon.

Status of Iranian Hostages Unknown

NC2404072390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces commanded by Samir Ja'ja' has denied having any information about the four Iranians who were kidnapped in Lebanon in 1982 and whose release has been demanded by Iran following the release of Robert Polhill.

An official source in Ja'ja's forces told AFP that Elie Hubayqah, [former] chairman of the Lebanese Forces executive committee, can provide information about the four Iranians' fate.

Meanwhile, responding to a question from AFP, Hubayqah said that the four Iranians were kidnapped at the al-Barbarah crossing when this crossing was manned by forces Ja'ja' commanded. Hubayqah added that Ja'ja' has his security organs and special prisons in that area.

In the meantime, Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi told AFP yesterday he has no information on whether the four Iranians are still alive.

Militia 'Will Release' Prisoners in South

NC2404102590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] AFP has cited an informed diplomatic source in Jerusalem as having said Lahd's militia will release a group of detainees from al-Khiyam prison [in south Lebanon] soon.

While providing no indication of the number of the detainees to be released, the source pointed out this measure will not include Hizballah members.

Source Expects Turner, Waite Release 'Soon'

NC2404100690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] A well informed source has information that the two foreign hostages who, according to rumors will be released soon, are Jesse Turner and Terry Waite.

As for the date they will be released, the source said this might take place during or after 'Id al-Fitr. The source indicated there is a deal about this, which provides for one of the two hostages to be released first. The second hostage will be released after the concerned quarters have honored the pledges they made in return for the release of the two hostages.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South

Troops, Weapons Cited

NC2204072190 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli occupation forces have sent fresh reinforcements to the so-called security belt region. A security source in the South has said 80 Israeli troops, three tanks, and five armored personnel carriers crossed the borders and took up positions in Shab'a last night. Israel has sent 400 troops, 30 tanks, ammunition trucks, and 155- and 175-mm artillery batteries to the same region in the past 24 hours.

Resistance Actions Reported

NC2404082790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpts] According to reports received from the South this morning, the Israeli authorities have brought reinforcement into the occupied border strip during the last 36 hours. Security sources have said approximately 40 armored cars, 350 soldiers, and troop carriers supported by three artillery batteries mounted on trucks loaded with ammunition have gone through the settlement of Metulla toward occupied Lebanese territory.

Meanwhile, agent Lahd's militia has carried out maneuvers and exercises under the supervision of occupation army officers around al-Khiyam prison in a militia muscle-flexing demonstration. [passage omitted]

Agent 'Abd al-Nabi Bazzi has warned the inhabitants of Tibnin and 'Ayta al-Jabal in the central sector of south Lebanon that their towns will be shelled if they cooperate with the resistance.

In the meantime, occupation forces and their militia committed an aggression in the Hasbaya area when they advanced over five km into the liberated area near 'Ayn 'Ata and raked the plains and valleys in the area with automatic weapon fire.

The militia radio has admitted that an explosive charge went off as a militia patrol was passing on the Burghuz-al-Dallafah road. The radio said a vehicle was damaged in the explosion but claimed none of the crew was wounded.

Resistance fighters have meanwhile attacked a patrol near the town of Bayt Yahun. The casualties sustained by the enemy forces could not be determined because of the cordon they have thrown around the area. Another resistance group has ambushed an enemy patrol near al-Shumariyah, damaging a vehicle and killing or wounding its occupants.

SLA, 'Terrorist' Units Exchange Fire

TA2204080790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Last night two positions of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] were attacked by terrorist fire. No one was hurt. RPG shells and automatic fire was directed at SLA positions in the western sector. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that SLA cannons fired dozens of shells at terrorist targets north of the security zone in response.

Birri Says Amal To Observe Unilateral Cease-Fire

NC2304143090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has declared a unilateral cease-fire between the Amal Movement and Hizballah as of 1700 today. Birri expressed the movement's readiness to exchange detainess with Hizballah before 'Id al-Fitr or during the truce.

After making two telephone calls to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, Birri said the only solution is to give the job to the one who is best qualified to handle it; that is, the legitimate government, which must extend its authority throughout Lebanon. Birri called for the implementation of the security plan for West Beirut and expressed his willingness to hand over al-Nasiriyah barracks in al-Biqa' to the Lebanese Army commanded by General Emile Lahhud.

Hizballah Calls for Cease-Fire, Prisoner Swap

NC2404075490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpt] As the blessed 'Id al-Fitr draws near, Hizballah has issued a statement calling on Amal to declare a comprehensive and lasting cease-fire and to lift roadblocks in Iqlim al-Tuffah to facilitate the return of displaced people to their homes and villages. The Hizballah statement says: We, for our part, declare our continued commitment to the cease-fire which we previously announced.

The statement adds: We believe this is a good opportunity for the Amal movement to set free all our civilian brothers it had snatched from their homes and villages in Jabal 'Amil. There is no justification for their continued detention, since they took no part in any battle. We are also ready to exchange prisoners on both sides. Such a move will be a positive one in terms of dialogue and understanding leading to a comprehensive settlement between us and the Amal movement.

The statement says: We take the opportunity of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr to declare our goodwill and to reconsider ways for a solution dealing with the causes of the problem and not just its results. [passage omitted]

'Awn Forces Wound Lebanese Forces Member 23 Apr

NC2304090590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] At 0900 today 'Awn's group fired several mortar shells, and snipers fired medium-caliber weapons at the Lebanese Forces positions in the Olivetti area and its environs, wounding a member of the Lebanese Forces.

'Awn's group then fired three shells at the Lebanese Forces positions in the vicinity of Galerie Khabbaz.

In another development, a clash involving automatic weapons and rockets took place between Progressive Socialist Party gunmen and others from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party on Bashir al-Qassar street in Wata al-Musaytibah in West Beirut last night.

Explosion Reported in Christian-Controlled Area

NC2304103090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Security sources have reported that an explosion occurred in the vicinity of the Bhannis hospital but that the causes are not yet known.

Preliminary reports said that the explosion took place in the al-Qulay'at Front Command building near the Bhannis hospital. Eyewitnesses reported that they saw white smoke in the area, but they do not know the reason for it. These are just preliminary reports, and we are waiting for confirmation from the competent security sources.

Al-Huss on Gaining Authority in Eastern Area

NC2304150790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss reemphasized today that the Lebanese crisis can be solved only when the former Army commander steps down from the position he has usurped. Prime Minister al-Huss welcomed any party that adopts a position of openness and rapprochement toward the legitimate authority.

This came in an interview with the prime minister. Asked if legitimacy will delay in establishing its authority in the eastern area, at least in the areas that have shown a desire to welcome the legitimate authority, Prime Minister al-Huss said: In fact, the government has not yet been able to build an army that is capable of confronting the illegitimate forces in the area. The Army command has made praiseworthy efforts to reorganize the Army units, rehabilitate the Army members and strengthen the Army's capabilities. However, we have not yet been able to furnish the Army with equipment that is equal, if not superior, to the arms of the illegitimate forces.

The Army is supposed to confront the illegimate forces if they oppose it or decided to challenge it. The battles in the eastern area have revealed terrible and disturbing facts about the quality of armament of the two warring factions in the eastern area. This has increased our conviction that we must be cautious to avoid involving the Army in an adventure that could subject the march of legitimacy and also the process of reconciliation and peace to a setback and possible collapse.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: During the past few months, we tried to secure aid to equip the army with the necessary materiel to confront the challenges of the current phase, but we did not receive the required response. We do not have sufficient material capability to achieve what we need without foreign aid. We are still making efforts in this direction. Until we succeed in this, we naturally cannot intervene in any area where a conflict takes place between illegitimate forces that have arms superior in quantity, caliber, and types to those possessed by the Army.

Asked the way out of this situation, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Former Army Commander Michel 'Awn's mutiny is a barrier that is preventing the legitimate authority from establishing its authority in the eastern area. 'Awn is retaining an important part of the Lebanese Army and a more important part of the Army's equipment and arms. Hence, 'Awn is preventing the reunification of the military establishment. The Army's unity, when attained, will be the cornerstone for building a united state and the natural and necessary instrument for the establishment of the legitimate authority everywhere in Lebanon—in the eastern area as well as in the rest of the areas.

Prime Minsiter al-Huss added: What can be said in this respect about the military forces 'Awn has confiscated cannot be said about the forces that are waging an armed conflict with him. Had Michel 'Awn not been in the position he has usurped, legitimacy would have been established through the Lebanese Army in areas under its control. As long as Michel 'Awn remains in this usurped position, it would be difficult for the legitimate authority to advance to positions it cannot protect with its own forces. Basically, legitimacy cannot even for a single moment think of relying on forces other than the legitimate forces to defend any positions to which they may advance in the event they are attacked, harrassed, or challenged by one party or another. There is nothing that ensures these forces will not be subjected to such possibilities.

Asked about the ability of the Arab tripartite committee and the major powers to help in this respect, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The Arab tripartite committee is trying as hard as it can with this. However, we believe that the friendly and effective states, which have openly declared support for legitimacy, have not done all they practically could to exert pressure to end the state of rebellion and division that is led by the former Army commander or in enabling the legitimate authority to do so. The Vatican and some other states, which can influence the situation, could have played a role in this direction. [passage omitted)

'Awn Forces Reportedly Violate Cease-Fire

NC2304163590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] At 1700 this evening 'Awn's gunmen violated a cease-fire agreement which had been reached earlier. Their artillery emplacements in Qurnat Shahwan fired two rounds at Central Kasrawan. The townships of 'Ajaltun and Mazra'at Kafr Dhibyan were the target of intermittent shelling from 'Awn's gunmen positions until approximately 1700 this evening. Several areas in central Kasrawan came under artillery fire from 'Awn's emplacements at approximately 1645.

'Awn Rules Out Settlement With Ja'ja'

NC2404084990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn has made a scathing attack on Samir Ja'ja'. 'Awn said: The internal war should end. We have to win it to rescue the land and the people. There is a solution to the current situation, and we have all the necessary means to bring it about. This solution will not have to wait for long. I am not going to say how the solution will come about, for it is better not to do that in advance.

'Awn said: There have been several attempts to end the war peacefully and through negotiations, but mediation achieved nothing. Ja'ja' wants to become part of the al-Ta'if agreement. Ja'ja' wanted to present himself as a solution, and we simply told him he is the problem, not the solution. In the past, we had offered him a framework through which he could be part of a solution, but he broke away and dropped his masks. Ja'ja' has problems within the Lebanese Forces, in Ihdin, with [former Lebanese Forces Commander Elie] Hubayqah, with the Druze, in the Iqlim, in the area east of Sidon, and with a large section of the Phalangist Party.

'Awn said: A solution with the Lebanese Forces is possible, but no solution is possible with Ja'ja'.

'Awn was asked if he is having any exchanges with Syria. He said: U.S. statements and other rumors suggest we are being provided with weapons. This is untrue. It is just a propaganda campaign. As for contacting the Syrians, I have always, even in the hardest of times, said we are ready to negotiate with Syria within the scope of mutual interests and brotherly ties between Lebanon and Syria.

About the legitimate government, 'Awn said [President Ilyas] al-Hirawi is just a figurehead and will remain so. He added: Anything resulting from the al-Taif agreement is illegitimate. The only solution is for elections under Arab and international supervision.

Further Reaction to Polhill Release

Bush, Baker Statements Cited

JN2304142790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. State Secretary James Baker has declared Syria played a key role in obtaining the release of American hostage Robert Polhill. AFP quotes Baker as saying at a news conference he called yesterday that the United States highly appreciates the efforts of the Syrian and Iranian Governments regarding this. The help extended by Syria in this affair only can have a positive impact on relations between the two countries, added Baker.

President George Bush had expressed his thanks to the Governments of Syria and Iran for their contribution to the release of Robert Polhill.

Meanwhile, Polhill, who was set free yesterday, has arrived in Frankfurt aboard an American military aircraft from Damascus. The former hostage said earlier at a news conference at the Foreign Ministry that he was deeply grateful and extremely happy for the role played by Syria, led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, to win his freedom. REUTERS has reported Polhill was transferred to the American military hospital in Wiesbaden for a medical checkup.

Bush Calls Al-Asad

JN2304204490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call tonight from U.S. President Bush, who expressed his sincere gratitude for the president's personal efforts in obtaining the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill. President Bush said he knew what had happened would not have been possible without Syria. He expressed his gratitude and said he had also done so in a public statement.

President Bush added he believed an opportunity existed for establishing better U.S.-Syrian relations. He expressed the hope contacts would continue in the future.

Dole, Baker Call

JN2404083890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call yesterday from U.S. Republican Minority Leader Senator Robert Dole. During the telephone conversation, Senator Dole conveyed his own deep satisfaction and appreciation, and that of his colleagues in the U.S. Senate, to Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad regarding their important efforts in obtaining the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who expressed to him the U.S. Administration's thanks and that of President George Bush and their gratitude for the efforts of Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad in obtaining the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill.

Commentary Urges Unified Arab Strategy

JN2304145890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Southern Lebanon's towns, villages, and camps have come under repeated Israeli attacks and meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces have been beefed up in the area's occupied strip. Whatever pretexts and arguments Israel advances to justify these attacks, they are seeking primarily to intimidate our people in southern Lebanon into leaving their homes and land and go north to further Israel's Biblical irredentist scheme.

From 1948, Israel has followed a recognizable pattern of annexing whatever Arab territory it has conquered: Settlements spring up after each aggression to accommodate new arrivals from around the world. Typically, after each new invasion, Israel enacts legislation that exposes the intentions of Tel Aviv rulers to hold on to the conquered land, as in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. In southern Lebanon, Israel has plotted to confiscate the waters of the Litani and Wazzani Rivers, and subterranean water, and to set up military facilities and airports. It is now preparing to build settlements in advance of annexing this part of the country.

Gentlemen: The Zionist expansionist plan for Lebanese territory is part and parcel of the grand Zionist project drawn up by the world Zionist movement in the late 19th century. In concert with the anti-Arab imperialist strategy, Israel is now working to implement the project. The increasing attacks on Lebanon prove Israel is seeking to escalate tension to preempt any initiatives to bring peace to the region. Israel thus shows itself hostile to any plans to bring peace and quiet to the Middle East and is pursuing a belligerent posture to achieve that end. Such behavior is to be expected from Israel, for peace constitutes a negation of the Zionist settlement plan and and is bound to frustrate the world Zionist movement leaders' dreams of a Biblical greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

However, all this still fails to paint a true picture of the situation in the region. We must consider the other side of the equation, namely the Arab nation targeted by the Israeli enemy. If the Zionist plan succeeded in its early phases, it was thanks to the negligence of certain Arabs or to the absence of Arab deterrence. Israel's persistently hard line has also been helped by Arab disunity and disarray. The Zionist plan has now entered its most serious phase: Massive Jewish emigration from the

USSR and elsewhere is a clear warning that new aggression and further conquests are imminent to settle the hundreds of thousands of arrivals in occupied Palestine—because the territory now under Israel's control is too small to accommodate the new influx of immigrants. Once again, the need arises for formulating a unified Arab strategy to tackle the real dangers threatening all Arab states from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

Columnist on Problems Facing Public Companies

JN2004120090 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 2 Apr 90 p 4

['Ali 'Abbud article in the "Spotlight" column: "When Will the Public Sector's Renewal and Development Operations Begin?"]

[Text] The report of the Damascus workers' annual conference has clearly warned of what is in store for the public sector over the next few years. The reports said: "It is clear that within the foreseeable future, it will be impossible to renovate, renew, or develop" the public sector's establishments.

This clear warning is an urgent appeal to those officials responsible for renovation, renewal, and development to adopt the necessary economic measures and policies to exploit as best they can the resources of the public sector companies.

The question is: Do the trade unions exaggerate when they assert that the public sector is suffering stifling and paralyzing problems that prevent it from carrying out its national duties?

A more important question is: Has the public sector reached a dead end? Are this sector's problems insoluble?

If we go back to these reports, most of which were published in the local newspapers, we will see that they give a true picture of existing conditions in the public sector. This is only natural, because the trade unions are better qualified to deal with production problems, propose practical solutions, and use their experience to implement these solutions. We also find the demands of these unions are extremely clear, namely, defending the public sector and ensuring its continuity in terms of providing raw materials and choosing efficient management. Therefore, trade unions have the right to question the failure to revitalize the public sector, to keep it on the move, and protect it from instability.

It is only natural that the unions are upset to learn that the production capacity of the public sector is paralyzed because of the scarcity of production requirements such as raw materials, equipment, and labor.

The Damascus workers report said that the public sector continues to suffer from shortages in both imported and local raw materials. Indeed, the report noted that some companies that rely mainly on local raw materials also suffer from underemployment and work at only a fraction of capacity. This means that it is not only a problem of raw materials, but also a problem of the financial approach to the public sector.

Is that all?

Of course not. As a result of several years of suffering, the public sector's production costs have risen because of underemployment. The financial problems of the public sector's establishments and companies have increased. All this has rusted the equipment and machinery, which is only natural. Maintenance costs have risen because of the shortage in production needs and support materials and the failure to use the necessary expertise. It is not surprising, therefore, to find the Damascus workers reaching the conclusion that the renovation, renewal, or development of the public sector is an impossibility in the foreseeable future. The question here is: Why have renovation, renewal, or development operations been absent from our economic plans? If the annual plans of the public sector's establishments spotted such needs, why haven't we provided the means of implementing them before it was too late?

Afghanistan

General Says Battle for Jalalabad 'Over'

BK2304164590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1636 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 23 (AFP)—The battle for Jalalabad has ended after more than a year of bitter fighting, and government forces are in control of the eastern city near the border with Pakistan, a top Afghan Army general said Monday [23 April]. General Muhammad Afzal Lodin told reporters flown to Jalalabad that security forces had pushed back mujahidin positions and his men were ready with large supplies of food and military hardware to take on the rebels in the event of renewed attacks.

"The battle for Jalalabad is over. This is now a stronghold of the government," Gen. Ludin said, in a claim which diplomats viewed with some reservation. The diplomats in the Afghan capital said Jalalabad's current calm could be "a temporary peace as the mujahidin could regroup and attack again."

The reporters during the visit saw residents of Jalalabad moving about freely and shops in markets filled with food and clothes, mostly smuggled across the border from Pakistan.

Gen. Lodin told the reporters that some 58,000 rebels were either killed or wounded by the government troops since the battle of Jalalabad began March 16 last year. He put as government losses some 3,500 troops and civilians killed or wounded, and property damage at between 15 million and 17 million U.S. dollars. He said the mujahidin had fired 580,000 rockets and shells at the city. Security forces destroyed 37 tanks, 936 rocket launchers, 13 anti-aircraft positions and 542 mortars during the battle.

"The rebels have been pushed back. We have extended our security belt. Rebels are now using long-range missiles, but their attacks are not strong. There is not much danger in Jalalabad now," he said. He said mujahidin positions were some 40 to 50 kilometres away from his line of control and sometimes the rebels came as close as three kms and ran back.

"We have stored a lot of supplies, we are ready for heavy fighting if there is another attack," the general said.

Jalalabad, Khowst Said 'Under Constant Pressure'

BK2404044490 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 24 Apr 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The authorities in Afghanistan say that in spite of daily attacks on the southeastern city of Jalalabad, more than 2,000 Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan over the last three months. Jalalabad and Khowst, both close to the Pakistan border, have been under constant pressure from mujahidin guerrillas since the Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February last year. Our correspondent Deepak Tripathi has been seeing the situation there for himself:

[Begin recording] I and a Swiss journalist flew very low in a military helicopter to avoid any missile attack. The journey took just over 40 minutes. Jalalabad was under siege by mujahidin guerrillas for more than five months last year and still comes under rockets and mortar attacks every day. The secretary of the ruling People's Democratic Party in Jalalabad, Faqir Muhammad Wadhan, told us that at least 10 civilians have died in guerrilla attacks over the weekend, but, he said, the situation was much better now with sufficient supply for the 120,000 people of the city. Hardly any building in the city has escaped damage from shelling and rocket attacks. When we visited an eastern district, we could hear heavy firing a few miles away in the mountains. The authorities say about 600 Afghan refugees are returning to their homes every month in the Nangarhar Province of which Jalalabad is the capital. More would undoubtedly follow if the war could be brought to an end.

The eastern area commander of Afghanistan, Lieutenant General Lodin, said some 600,000 shells and rockets have been fired by guerrillas since March last year. The devastation was so great that it would take many years to recover even if the war came to an end soon. [end recording]

Mujahidin Leader Views Settlement Prospects

LD2304142690 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 23, IRNA—Any political solution to the Afghan issue is preferable to a military one, provided it forces the enemy to surrender, a top Afghan mujahidin leader said Monday [23 April].

"Otherwise, the mujahidin will pressure the Kabul regime both politically and militarily," said Sibghatullah Mojaddedi of the 7-party Pashto speaking alliance based in Peshawar.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Mojaddedi said "as long as the mujahidin are not strong on the military front, a political solution will not be in their interest." He also denied reports claiming that mujahidin leaders agreed to the holding of elections in Afghanistan under supervision of the United Nations and the Organization for the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mojaddedi said that the Pashto alliance's election proposal called that all Afghan Muslims including those living in areas under enemy control be allowed to elect deputies of their choice. But, he added, no decision has been taken yet to seek help from the U.N. or OIC.

Mojaddedi who leads the National Salvation Front party, ruled out the possibility of allowing the Kabul regime to contest the elections of shura (assembly) on the future of Afghanistan.

"We have declared a public amnesty. If the Kabul regime's forces surrender and repent they will be pardoned... But this does not mean they can have a share in the future government and shura," he said.

On the likelihood of direct talks between the Mujahidin and the Soviet Union, Mojaddedi said no new talks have been held but that the door was open for contacts on preparations for release of Soviet war prisoners.

He also said that Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the Harakat-e Eslami (the Islamic Movement) handles the foreign policy of the 7-party alliance.

Kabul Party Plenum Elects New Officials

LD2404064190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 22, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA CC, participated today in the plenum of Party Committee of Kabul City, held in Kabul.

At the outset, the organisational matter was discussed and Muhammad Wali was unanimously elected as secretary of Party Committee of Kabul City and member of Executive Bureau. Meanwhile, Daoud Razmyar and Zaher Moafaq were relieved from the membership of the Executive Bureau and Kabul City Party Committee owing to their assignments.

Later, President Najibullah delivered a speech about the tasks of the PDPA under the new conditions for the party reconstruction as well as for the expansion of the policy of national reconcilation and explained the subsequent directions of work and activities of party cadres in the restructuring of the party.

Assessing the past activities of the PDPA, he stressed on the need of party renovation, specifying the subsequent objectives of the party and the holding of the PDPA congress. President Najibullah called for joint and effective political preparedness on the part of the activists of Kabul City Party Committee in party renovation and threw light on the forthcoming duties of the PDPA.

In conclusion, Muhammad Wali, secretary of Kabul City Party Committee on behalf of the participants of the plenum talked about the indefatigable activities of the committee's activists in the party renovation and expansion of the policy of national reconciliation.

Kabul Hosts Koranic Conference

Najibullah Speaks

LD2104201690 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Kabul 21 Apr BAKHTAR—Text of the speech of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, delivered at international conference held on the anniversary of the revelation of the glorious Koran:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Respected ulema, learned and esteemed guests and respected personalities taking part in the conference:

First of all I congratulate you on the occasion of the auspicious anniversary of the glorious Koran revelation in this blessed and pious month—the month for cleansing the heart, a test of perseverance—that is, the holy month of Ramadan. It is being celebrated by competition in proper recitation of the holy Koran and by the holding of this glorious conference.

I am delighted that once again we found the opportunity that our brothers in Islam, by representing their countries and Islamic organizations, can familiarize themselves closely with facts of life of our Muslim people who are tired of war and thirsty for peace and they may pass their voice to the world's public. [passage omitted]

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has earnestly based the foundation of its activities on religious beliefs, mental richness and national customs and wishes of the people in the modern world, and the government objectives, programs, existing norms and laws, as a whole, are being realized in conformity with the provision of the sacred religion of Islam, social structure and traditions of the society.

To end the war and fratricide the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the basis of the provisions of the holy Koran, outstanding Muhammadi traditions and in view of the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people, patriotic feelings and faithfulness to the cause of peace in the country, region and in the world and on the basis of wishes and demands by the country's ulema and clergymen, declared the humane and Islamic policy of national reconciliation some three years ago. This policy quickly found a place in the hearts and thoughts of the people as the only policy and approach for reaching a long-lasting peace. As a result of this policy so far 150,000 armed and unarmed men, who had been carrying out armed activities against the Republic of Afghanistan, have ended their animosity and they are now standing up for peace and defense of the country. This policy gave a new spirit and characteristic to the Geneva talks and now two years have elapsed since the signing of Geneva Accords. In full perception of responsibility the Afghanistan side has completely observed these accords and on the basis of these accords the limited units of the Soviet Union were withdrawn from the country.

A large number of commanders inside the country gave up fighting, especially after the withdrawal of the limited units of the Soviet Union, and engaged in talks and understanding with the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. With confidence I would like to say to you that most of the commanders at present time do not show interest in fighting and bloodshed, and it is only because of the pressure exerted by the militarists of Pakistan, (?chieftains of) the armed extremists and other foreign countries that they take up arms.

Esteemed audience, we can recall the international conference convened some two years ago in the capital of the Republic of Afghanistan to mark the birth anniversary of Muhammad, peace be upon him, at this time which half of the Soviet forces had been withdrawn from Afghanistan [words indistinct] this time I showed my readiness for talks to be held in the glorious city of Mecca—the direction to which Muslims turn in prayer—so we can achieve the major task of genuine peace in light of the instructions in the holy Koran and words of the prophet of Islam. Unfortunately the extremist opposition forces not only rejected these proposals but they have agreed to the plan designed by aliens to topple the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan by military means, and they have also intensified the war in various dimensions. However, the facts of life proved the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, more than ever, forged ahead with courage and firmness and continued to follow the policy of national reconciliation to restore peace. On the contrary, the warmongering forces increasingly being drowned in deep water of treachery [words indistinct]. Lack of a clear program and their internal differences which progressively reduce their power the opposition forces kill one another and this has isolated them and their supporters from the refugees, other Afghans abroad, in the region and in the world.

For even further deepening of the policy of national reconciliation and restoration of peace the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan put forward clear and specific political plans which envolve political realism, clarity, preparing the ground for the rational formation of political pluralism to the limit of setting up government with broad bases by free, direct, equal and universal election under the supervision of the United Nations; and this has been transformed into formal government policy in action to achieve the objective.

Our clear and specific proposals, which were supported by the overwhelming majority of the Nonaligned Movement in the ninth conference of the heads of states and governments of the Nonaligned Movement held in Belgrade, are vivid examples of our intention for achieving quickly peace and security in the country. However, as it is clear to the world public the Government of Pakistan as one side to the accords and the United States as a guarantor to the Geneva Accords, not only did not observe their commitment on nonintervention in the affairs of Afghanistan and providing facilities for the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees without obstacles, but by open violation of the above accords they have intensified intervention and aggression on the territory of Afghanistan. Military training camps, weapons, and ammunition depots and the headquarters for the activities of the armed Afghan groups and formations in the territory of Pakistan were not only dismantled on the basis of Geneva accords but furthermore strengthened and expanded.

Recently military intelligence of Pakistan, ISI, started its last efforts for military solution of the problem of Afghanistan to the extent of military coup d'etat by extremist opposition forces and the opponents of national reconciliation. In that shameful act they also failed and were betrayed. What can this adventurism be called but an insult to international norms and principles and the ignorance of Islamic tenets.

I call on my refugee compatriots in Pakistan and the commanders of armed oppositions from this credible Islamic rostrum that realities and the development of the situation showed clearly that Pakistani militarists, up until yesterday, took advantage of your strength against your country for their own interests. Now that they have failed to attain their sinister goals against Afghanistan due to the heroism and the resistance of the people of Afghanistan and the divulgence of their intention to refugees and armed opposition commanders yet they want to sacrifice our refugees, as hostages, in other direction of such adventurist military plans which has no conformity with dominant atmosphere of the removal of tension at international level and the interest of peace in the region. We are fully confident that our refugee compatriots and armed opposition groups will no more be conned by the mottoes of aliens and will think responsibly on national interests of their country.

Dear audience, dear guests, our policy's aims are clear and specific. We, as Muslims, want peace for our people and country in line with God's orders. Our trust in the pursuit of this way is in God and our reliance is on the people of Afghanistan and resolutely believe that with the help of God and the support of the wretched people of Afghanistan we must succeed. We pass a difficult path with patience and forebearance and with pride defend the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation by the order of God before our Muslim brothers.

Taking this Islamic tribune I call on the former king of Afghanistan and Hazrat Sibghatollah Mojaddedi to place high interests of the people and country before any other observation and give positive response to the peace call of the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan and play a positive and active role in the restoration of peace and the cessation of war in our dear country, Afghanistan. I believe the heads of the nine parties do not oppose our peace plans.

Dear audience, our people and country will leave behind these difficult days. Peace and calm will be restored to our country. But our grateful people will never forget those who helped them in difficult and harsh moments and have helped them in the cessation of war and call for

peace. Similarly, our future generation will not forgive those have remained indifferent to the pains of Afghans or even have aided their continuation. Our expectation from you and Muslim brothers in the world is to tell the truths about country to the people of the world. Our country was an Islamic country and is and will always remain steadfast in the true trench of Islam. As an Islamic country Afghanistan is an inalienable part of the great Islamic family. The people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is seriously interested in and demands its membership rehabilitation in the international organization of Islamic conference and is interested in playing its active and constructive role through this organization for the consolidation the unity and solidarity of world Muslims. We fraternally request from you credible representatives of Islamic nations and societies to join your efforts with ours by understanding and speaking of the reality of Islam in Afghanistan for the rehabilitation of the legal right of Afghanistan's membership in Organization of Islamic Conference.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent messages to heads and influential personalities of a number of Islamic countries and explaining military-political situation of the country has asked their cooperation and assistance for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in land of Afghans. We once again call on the leaders and prominent personalities of Islamic world to fulfill their duties in line with the order of God for the initiation of dialogue and understanding and the ensuring of national reconciliation between belligerent forces and all confronting sides in the Islamic country of Afghanistan and take the initiative of the playing of a role in this act of benevolence with positively responding the call of the war-torn people of Afghanistan. We believe our Muslim brothers in Africa, Asia, Europe, and America will no longer tolerate the burning of their Muslim Afghan brothers in the fire of war and will help to extinguish the flames of this fire. God assigns all Muslims to use all their capability for the immediate cessation of war among Muslims.

Dear ulema, we take as a good omen the fact that in the current solar year on the basis of lunar month the goodness of the month Ramadan will be given to us twice. We hope due to this auspicious month peace will soon be restored to our country. I wish you success with help of God in the holding of this conference which has been held to mark the revelation and respect of Koran. Success comes from God.

Resolution Adopted

LD2304063290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 22, BAKHTAR—We participants of the International Islamic Conference held in Kabul from April 21-22, 1990 on the anniversary of the descension of the holy Koran, following hearing the inaugural speech of President Najibullah and statements of participated delegations approved a resolution unanimously, says the resolution adopted at the today's concluding sessions of the conference.

We, the conference participants on this glorious occasion congratulate it to other Islamic nations and wish the unity of all Muslims of the world.

We strongly confirm the honest strivings of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] state, for cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, mentioned in the statement of President Najibullah, it says.

We demand world Muslims to unitedly strive for immediate putting an end to the Afghan tragedy, the resolution says.

The conference demands all participants to issue this resolution in their countries in order to explain the Afghan issue, so that Islamic nations unitedly stand for realization of national reconciliation policy and ensurance of peace in Afghanistan, it adds.

The conference participants demand world super powers to refrain interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan as well as Islamic world, the resolution stresses.

We demand all Islamic countries to intensify their efforts for starting direct talks between warring sides in Afghanistan for the ensurance of national unity of this country, the resolution concludes.

Najibullah Thanks Delegations

LD2304214290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Speech by Afghan President Najibullah at meeting with International Islamic Conference participants in Kabul on 23 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

First of all I would like to express gratitude for your active participation at the conference work and the recitation of the holy Koran to mark the revelation of the holy Koran. Undoubtedly the participation by you Muslim brothers from the world Islamic countries in marking this auspicious day is indicative of the great interest our religious brothers from the world of Islam take in our country, Afghanistan, and in its Muslim people.

Inevitably, during your stay in Kabul and in the course of the conference work, you dear brothers should have realized this fact that the people of Afghanistan are tired of war and have unbound hatred of war, fratricide, and Muslimcide. They are very thirsty for peace.

To cease war and bloodshed and to eliminate discord among the Afghans and Muslims and to maintain Islamic unity and brotherhood, we have declared the policy of national reconciliation or national accord in

our country. We gave up the monopoly of political power, we maintained political pluralism in the society and invited all political parties, organizations, and Afghan political personalities party to the dispute in Afghanistan, inside and outside the country, for the maintenance of peace and security in the country. We have put forward numerous peace proposals and have created sufficient facilities and possibilities for the dignified return of our refugees to the country. For the announcement of such a policy, we are not only not repentant, but we could tell you categorically we have achieved positive results in all areas. With regret, however, a small number of extremists have so far rejected all our peaceful proposals and have chosen the path of war. Their slogan against peace and tranquillity is that we will fight to the last moment, to the last Afghan.

With the signing of the Geneva Accords, under which the Republic of Afghanistan has sincerely carried out its pledges, we believed interference and aggression against our country from abroad would cease. Regrettably, however, those who as of yesterday considered the presence of Soviet units in Afghanistan as the major reason for the lack of national accord, national reconciliation, and the achievement of peace, have expanded war in a variety of dimensions. Now, when more than a year has passed since the withdrawal of Soviet units from Afghanistan, we still face the same elements, whose pretext was the presence of these units.

Fatal weapons for mass killing are flooding our country from Pakistani territory. Contrary to the Geneva Accords, training centers for extremists and terrorists not only exist in Pakistan, but have expanded and strengthened. The Pakistani state itself, which saw the presence of the Soviet units in Afghanistan as dangerous to its security and at the time of presence of these units interference and military maneuvers on our borders were far less, today these interferences have reached the limit of aggression. Army Corps No. 11 and 12 of Pakistan on the border regions of Afghanistan have been stationed to violate a number of Afghan provinces bordering Pakistan. I believe we have said this many times. Once again I categorically declare before you that if aggression and interference from abroad cease and the Afghans themselves are allowed to determine their destiny, very soon peace in our country will be established under our blue skies. The cries and sufferings of widows will no longer be heard; the tears of orphans will not be shed; their place will be taken by smiles on the lips of the innocent children of this country, provided interference from abroad ceases. As far as it depends on us, we could say with honor and dignity that we can defend the territorial integrity, independence, and national dependence of our country, as it was shown by a year of independent dependence. [as heard] However, even for a moment we do not forget the importance of the fact that for a poor, developing country in need of progress, peace is needed, not war.

Therefore, we not only have not lost our patience as against the stubborn and illogical stand of the extremists, but we will press forward toward the realization and expanding of the policy of national reconciliation with the dictates of Almighty God: [Koranic verse in Arabic omitted] Try to reach reconciliations among yourselves. However, as far as it depends on Muslim brothers and what we expect from your countries, it is not only your duty to sympathize and to help cease war and bloodshed with the Muslim people of Afghanistan—which in itself shows international Islamic solidarity and cooperation—but God forbid if we remain indifferent in this regard, it will be a great damage and dignity to the unity, solidarity, and fraternity of international Islamic brotherhood.

We loudly assert before you that Afghanistan and its people do not need lethal weapons. The people of Afghanistan need fraternal Islamic sympathy. We expect you to tell the Islamic realities and facts of our society to your peoples, countries, and governments. We are looking forward to your Islamic solidarity and fraternity. I wish you a good and secure journey back; from the bottom of my heart I expect, God willing, when you next return to our country permanent peace will have been restored and we will sit with one another in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and talk about further consolidation of our fraternal and Islamic relations in a world of Islamic fraternity. We will put forward common plans and take common steps for the enhancement of our human and Islamic ideal. We wish you success and dignity from God. Thank you for your attention.

I would like to congratulate our young Qari [Koran reciter] who has brought honor to our brother Muslim country and for the Islamic world. He is a young man and it is said that the future always belongs to youths. So, his life will be more beautiful and more bright. Wishes for his further success. Thank you for your active participation in the work of the conference.

Egyptian Journalists Interview Najibullah

LD2304063890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 22, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received today correspondent of the dailies-AL-AHRAM, ALJUMHURIYAH and AL-AKHBAR of Egypt at the Presidential Palace for an interview.

During this interview, president of the Republic of Afghanistan answered to the questions of journalists about the holding of elections with the participation of different parties, the return of Afghan refugees to the country, freedom of religious rights in Afghanistan and the role of Egypt's mediation in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

Provincial Fighting, Casualties Reported

LD2304064690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 22, BAKHTAR—The security forces in Lagman Province seized nine horses loaded with ground-to-ground rockets and various kinds of weapons belonging to Gulbuddin extremist groups today.

During the clash between the said forces and extremists armed oppositions were killed.

According to another report security forces have crushed Pak-backed extremist groups, in Pashtun Kot District of Faryab Province.

During this operation three extremists have been killed. Report reach from Qandahar adds that in a clash happened which is still continue between the Wahhabi-Sayaf and his rivals in the area of Qandahar Province 50 armed men have been killed or injured from both sides.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Neighborhood Kills 19

LD2304164990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] As many as 19 of our fasting compatriots were martyred and 11 others were injured when four U.S. rockets fired by Pakistan-backed extremists landed in the residential area of Kabul this evening.

The BAKHTAR military section reports: One of the rockets fired by the enemies of our country and people landed next to the Haji Yaqub mosque, where 13 of our fasting Muslim compatriots, who were on their way for evening prayer at the mosque, were martyred.

The other three rockets landed in various sections of Kabul. One landed on the house of one of our compatriots, Ghafar, and martyred three members of his family.

Those injured in today's rocket attack were quickly taken to a hospital where they are under intensive medical care. The rocket attack caused material loss.

Bangladesh

Japanese Ambassador Announces Kaifu To Visit

OW2404021590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0017 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 24 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's upcoming visit to Dhaka will "deepen and broaden" Tokyo's relations with Bangladesh, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Takeo Iguchi said Monday [23 April]. Iguchi, speaking at the National Press Club, said Japan wants to play a greater role in helping South Asian nations achieve political, social, and economic stability.

Kaifu, accompanied by his wife Sachiyo, will arrive in Bangladesh on May 1 on the second leg of a nine-day Asian tour that will also take him to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Kaifu will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit Bangladesh since it became independent in 1971.

"We basically support the political and economic orientation of Bangladesh," Iguchi said.

Besides holding talks with Bangladesh's President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on improvement of relations, Kaifu will be present at the inauguration of the Meghna Bridge, the largest single Japanese grant project anywhere in the world. Japan provided 7.9 billion dollars in grant to build the 830-meter bridge over the River Meghna on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

India

Premier Foresees No War With Pakistan on Kashmir

BK2404132990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the country is prepared to face any eventuality in case of a war with Pakistan. He however added: We do not apprehend a war with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. The prime minister was speaking to newsmen at Mana airport this afternoon where he was on a brief stopover after visiting Bastar in Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. V.P. Singh said in reply to a question that a significant change has been noticed in the attitude of the United States on the Kashmir issue. He said there is improvement in the situation in Punjab and Kashmir and the entire nation and all political parties, excepting the Congress-I, are cooperating in solving the Kashmir issue at the earliest.

Earlier, addressing a huge public rally at Lalbagh in Jagdalpur, the prime minister urged the people to maintain internal peace and harmony in the present hour of border tension being created by Pakistan. Mr. Singh said any act by Pakistan to damage our territorial integrity will be dealt with effectively.

Gujral Protests 'Terrorist Group' on UN Premises

BK2404091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has protested to the UN secretary general, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, yesterday against the abuse of UN premises by a terrorist group which kidnapped and killed innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir recently.

Referring to Amanullah Khan's [chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] address to the UN Correspondents Association [UNCA] a few weeks ago, Mr. Gujral hoped that this kind of thing would not be

allowed to happen again. It may be recalled that Amanullah Khan, chairman of a secessionist and terrorist organization, was allowed to address a news conference on the United Nations' premises where he said that his group had shot a vice chancellor and other hostages.

The UN chief explained that the press conference was arranged by the UNCA in its club. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said that he would make efforts to see that this does not happen again.

Mr. Gujral is scheduled to meet his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in New York tomorrow. As already reported, there is no fixed agenda for the talks. The meeting is likely to be utilized for easing tension between India and Pakistan.

Editorial Deplores U.S. Visa for 'Terrorist'

BK2204162090 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 90 p 9

[Editorial: "Washington on Test"]

[Text] The response of the United States to India's request for the expulsion of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] chairman Amanullah Khan for his open incitement to killings in the Valley and the inflammatory statements made against Indian leaders will determine how far Washington is serious in its professed commitment to fight international terrorism. New Delhi is perfectly justified in questioning the grounds on which the self-confessed terrorist leader was allowed entry into the US and seeking remedial action in case the grant of visa to him was the result of an oversight. At his press conference in the United Nations headquarters on Monday [9 April], Mr. Khan owned up to not only the criminal activities of the JKLF in Kashmir but his guidance to the secessionist movement. That the murder of the three hostages held by the JKLF on Tuesday [10 April] came hours after he threatened it provides additional confirmation that Mr. Khan has been masterminding both the kidnappings and killings in the Valley. His subsequent clarification that the reference to the execution of the hostages was in the context of the natural reaction of any "oppressed people" as well as the attempt to woo Mr. V. P. Singh by lauding his "courage of conviction" should not obscure the fact that what the JKLF chief issued from New York was in the nature of a directive to his outfit to finish off the three innocent hostages held captive for five days.

The receptions and meetings organised by the Kashmiri-American community and the fund-raising arrangements made, co-ordinating the efforts to cultivate Congressmen in the election year, clearly show that Mr. Khan's visit to the U.S. was part of a well-prepared plan. The Bush Administration is reported to have ordered an investigation into the issuance of a visa to Mr. Khan by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service, which is normally done in such case only with the concurrence of the State Department. The failure of the State Department spokesman to explain why the necessary process of screening was dispensed with in Mr. Khan's case is all the more curious in view of the fact that the JKLF has been identified as a terrorist organisation in a U.S. Government report. Though the Indian Embassy in Washington has been somewhat lax in lodging a protest as soon as Mr. Khan landed in the U.S. and sought to make up for it by furnishing a record of the heinous crimes committed by the JKLF, the State Department could not have been unaware of the antecedents of one who had been deported by Britain in 1986 for his suspected links with the assassins of an Indian diplomat. And yet the man was allowed in for an extensive tour by the United States, which does not exactly square with its endorsement of New Delhi's policy of not having any deals with terrorists. Washington needs to take a clear and unequivocal stand against such terrorist leaders as Amanullah Khan who would employ any means to secure their objective.

Group Wants 'Liberation' of Pakistan-Held Kashmir

BK2404005490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Army [JKLA] says a civil army of 500,000 people would be recruited and JKLA would struggle for liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Mr. Bhim Singh told newsmen in Simla that the liberation of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir alone would ensure stable peace in the Indian subcontinent.

Delhi Radio Reviews Situation in Jammu, Kashmir

BK2104034590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that the current drive against terrorism in the state will continue in view of the encouraging results achieved in the last two weeks. He said about 370 subversives, including several hard-core terrorists, have been arrested on the clues provided during the interrogation of those arrested earlier. The security forces achieved a major success yesterday when they killed six terrorists, arrested 17, and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition in three separate operations in the Kashmir Valley.

The situation in the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful yesterday [20 April]. The curfew will be relaxed in Srinagar city today for four hours from 0900 this morning. The union minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, is scheduled to visit Doda District today. He arrived in Jammu late yesterday evening and discussed the law and order situation with state officers.

The plight of Kashmir migrants in Jammu and Delhi figured in the Lok Sabha during zero hour yesterday. The issue was raised by Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and he was supported by a senior party colleague, Mr. L.K. Advani. They pointed

out that the conditions of these migrants are pitiable and demanded that the government should give immediate relief to them. They were generally supported by the opposition Congress-I. A National Conference member specifically mentioned about the hardships faced by the people in the Kashmir Valley, particularly during Ramadan, due to prolonged curfew.

The home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, told the members that the curfew was relaxed completely on Friday and the situation is getting normal. The home minister told the house that the government is fully aware of the plight of migrants and he is taking steps to mitigate their hardships. Ad hoc relief has also been given to migrants in Jammu and Delhi.

Referring to the problem of admission of the students who have left the medical and engineering colleges in Srinagar, the home minister assured the house that the colleges will be reopened by the 15th of next month. All these problems are being sorted out, he added.

Regarding accommodation to migrants, Mufti Mohammad said it is difficult to provide accommodation to about 25,000 families who had migrated to Jammu from Srinagar. Only ad hoc accommodation could be provided to them.

Demonstrators Protest Pakistan 'Interference'

BK2304091990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] The Rashtriya Mukti Morcha [National Liberation Front] workers held a demonstration outside the Pakistan Embassy in the capital today. They were protesting against Islamabad's interference in the internal affairs of India. The slogan-shouting workers urged the Pakistani people to desist their government from warlike postures and stop supporting subversives in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. [sentence as heard] They also submitted a memorandum to the embassy officials.

Kashmir 'Near Normal'; 90 'Subversives' Arrested

BK2304161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in Srinagar City and other towns is near normal. Curfew was relaxed for eight hours from 0900 this morning in Srinagar City.

In the continuing search operations, security forces arrested 90 more subversives in different parts of the Kashmir Valley yesterday.

The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has announced rewards for anyone providing information leading to the arrest of militants for busting of the subversive network. Rewards will also be given for recovery of weapons.

The Delhi police have arrested two more subversives of the Kashmir Valley. Disclosing this in Jammu today, an official spokesman said that the arrested activists have been identified. A state police party has left for Delhi to seek the custody of the arrested subversives. Vital clues are expected from interrogation of the activists.

Minister Discusses Kashmir With Iranian Envoy

LD1904204790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Iranian ambassador in India met with that country's foreign minister yesterday. During the meeting various topics, including the Kashmir issue, were discussed.

During the meeting, our country's ambassador stressed that Iran's policies, including on the Kashmir issue, are independent and stem from the principles of the Islamic revolution and the beliefs of the Muslim people of our country.

During the meeting, the Indian foreign minister stressed the importance of the ties between the two countries and called for the preservation and expansion of those ties.

Comparison of Portfolios Announced

WA2404135390

Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English at 1430 GMT on 23 April transmits a report on the announcement of portfolios of newly appointed union ministers. This report has been compared with and found to be identical to the Delhi Radio version published in the 23 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 30, except for the following variations: Column one, paragraph two, sentence one reads: ...with independent charge. K.P. Unnikrishnan, who was holding Communications as an additional charge as a cabinet minister will now be having Surface Transport only. [new paragraph] Mr. Rashid Masud.... (supplying additional material) Paragraph five reads: ...of state are:

Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta - Human Resource Development

Mr. Bhajman Behra - Petroleum and Chemicals

Mr. Hari Kishore Singh - External Affairs

Mr. Upendra Nath Verma - Rural Development

Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay - Home Affairs

Mr. Satyapal Malik - Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism

Mr. Bhagey Goverdhan - Planning and Program Implementation

Mr. Nitish Kumar - Agriculture and Cooperation

Mr. Srikant Jena - Minister of State for new Department of Small Scale, Agro and Rural Industries,... (clearing phonetic names)

Indrajit Gupta Appointed CPI General Secretary

BK2104034090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Indrajit Gupta has been appointed the general secretary of the Communist Party of India [CPI]. He has taken over from Mr. C. Rajeshwara Rao, who submitted his resignation to the national council of CPI. A senior member of Lok Sabha, Mr. Gupta, till now, was the deputy general secretary of the party and general secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress, AITUC.

General Rodrigues Named New Army Chief

BK2304075290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Sunit Francis Rodrigues has been appointed the new chief of the Indian Army. An official announcement today in New Delhi said that Gen. Rodrigues, currently GOC [General Officer Commanding], Western Army Command, will take over his new appointment from the 1st of July. Gen. Rodrigues will succeed Gen. V.N. Sharma.

A recipient of the Param Vishist Seva Medal for distinguished service of the highest order, Gen. Rodrigues would be the 16th Army chief of the country.

Commentary Praises Changes in Nepal

BK2104125090 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Apr 90

[K. Sri Ram Commentary]

[Text] The restoration of the much-demanded multiparty system of democratic governance in Nepal in recent days is indeed a happy augury as much for the prosperity of the people of the Himalayan kingdom as for the stability in the region. From all accounts, the installation of the coalition Bhattarai government at Kathmandu is a successful culmination of the people's struggle for a meaningful democratic alternative to the three decade-old partyless Panchayat [Parliament] regime thrust on them.

In the recent months, the struggle had intensified to such an extent that grave questions regarding the stability of the region itself began to be voiced by political commentators. The death of the prodemocracy protestors in police firings, the incarceration of opposition leaders appear to have only made the people's resolve stronger to achieve their cherished objectives. And therefore, the wave of jubilation and euphoria that is now blowing across Nepal is understandable. However, this heightened expectation of the people from the new government has only made the latter's task all the more challenging. Even as its task in rebuilding the country's economy remains daunting, it has to be responsive to the legitimate needs and aspirations of its people. The changes also augur well for smoother, friendlier, and relatively friction-free Indo-Nepal relations.

There is general expectation that the two democratic governments would find it easy to do business with each other in the coming days. Already, with the formation of the National Front government, a determined move had been initiated to break the over-a-year-old deadlock in bilateral ties, following the expiry of the trade and transit treaties. A mutually acceptable solution appeared imminent last month, even as the prodemocracy movement inexorably moved toward its climax. So much so that influential sections within the ruling party and in the opposition began cautioning the Indian Government against entering into any accord, with the then regime in Kathmandu. Doing so, would send the wrong signals to the valiant Nepalese people struggling for democracy, many had argued. As things stand out, the exercise for the finalization of documents for trade and transit arrangements could not be completed during the high-level Indian team's visit to Kathmandu last month, when the then foreign minister, Mr. S.K. Upadhyaya, resigned in what many observers in India regard as the beginning of the end of the old dispensation in Nepal.

Looking back, it was just as well that no finality could be arrived at that time over the transit and trade arrangements between the two governments for, with a democratic and responsive government at the helm of affairs in Kathmandu, the National Front government has a better chance of fruitfully pursuing its avowed good neighborly policy with Nepal. It would also find itself a lot more free in entering into meaningful dialogues with Kathmandu for a proper understanding of its oft-repeated desire for considering the entirety of the bilateral relations. So far, this insistence on New Delhi's part and the hitherto Nepalese penchant to have a piecemeal approach for dealing with bilateral problems had led to the virtual breakdown of regular trade and transit arrangements.

The new Nepalese leadership has already appealed to New Delhi to restore the status quo ante which it feels would ease the present hardship faced by the Nepalese. With New Delhi's sympathies clearly with the responsive democratic government, an early conclusion of trade and transit accord is on the cards. And in this sense, the next round of official-level talks to be held in New Delhi is expected to finalize the documents which will then be approved during the External Affairs minister's visit to Kathmandu by the two governments. Both these events are now certain to take place sooner or later.

4 Killed, 23 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK2304145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested 23 terrorists, including hard-core Shamsher Singh alias Lali, during raids in different parts of the state. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession.

Terrorists gunned down four persons in separate incidents since last night in Amritsar District. Two

policemen were seriously injured when the terrorists fired at a patrol team in the Zira area of Ferozepur District.

29 Reported Injured in Bihar Train Bombings

BK2404034890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0335 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Bihar, at least 29 persons were injured, four of them seriously, when two powerful bombs exploded yesterday evening in a compartment of the Danahpur-Rajgarh passenger train. The explosion occurred between Satwa and Banka Ghat railway station, 25 km from Patna. According to the district magistrate, Patna, the injured have been admitted to the Patna Medical College Hospital and Nalanda Medical Hospital. The divisional railway manager along with the team of doctors and senior district officials have rushed to the spot.

Five 'Pakistani Intruders' Killed in Punjab

BK2404130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, 15 people including three terrorists and five Pakistani intruders were killed since last night. The Border Security Force shot dead five intruders from Pakistan near the (Mikilong) border observation post in Ferozepur sector last night.

Devi Lal Departs for FAO Meeting in China

BK2204101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] A five-day regional conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization—FAO—begins in Beijing tomorrow [22 April]. A high-level Indian delegation led by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has left for Beijing to attend the conference.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, Mr. Devi Lal said his visit to China will give an opportunity to the two countries to exchange technical know-how for increasing agricultural production. Mr. Devi Lal said he will also discuss with Chinese leaders the question of improving bilateral relations. During his visit, he will meet the Chinese prime minister, deputy prime minister, and agriculture minister.

Iran

Velayati Interviewed on Hostage Issue

PM2404095690 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Interview with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York by Peter Snow in London live on BBC 2 "Newsnight" following a report on the hostage situation]

[Text] [Snow] And now to discuss all this, I'm joined from New York by the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Foreign Minister, how far did your country help to secure the release of Professor Polhill?

[Velayati] You know that since several years ago Iran has started his extensive efforts to get the release of the hostages, regardless of their nationalities, on the basis of the humanitarian considerations.

[Snow] Yes, but was there a deal here? Did you—as we were hearing suggested earlier on—make financial inducements to the kidnappers?

[Velayati] Of course, what the main incentive and cause of the Lebanese groups, according to our information: They want to see goodwill from the other side, reciprocally. And you know that Iran has been the first victim of the hostage taking. More than six years ago, four Iranians—including three of my colleagues in the Foreign Ministry—have been taken as captives, and we have strong indications that still they are alive. And also there are some Lebanese and Palestinians who are in Israel as captives.

[Snow] Well, Mr. Foreign Minister, everybody, no doubt, would like to see their release as well, but the hostages that the Americans and that the British are concerned about, of course, as well as the ones you mentioned—your own, your own missing people—are the British and Americans. Now, are you now in a position to do more than you've done up to now to achieve the release of other hostages?

[Velayati] We will do our best, as we have done til now, but it is not enough. The Lebanese and Palestinian groups are waiting for the goodwill from the other side, because...

[Snow interrupts] All right, well, what is required?

[Velayati] We only...

[Snow interrupts] What is required from the other side?

[Velayati] Yes, we only persuade them to do so. Of course, we have heard that if the Lebanese groups and Palestinians show their goodwill, they will receive goodwill from the other side, and now they are waiting for the positive response from the other side.

[Snow] Well, can you just be clear what you mean by a positive response from the other side?

[Velayati] Yes, you know...

[Snow interrupts] What do you, for example...

[Velayati] Yes, Yes...

[Snow] What do you, for example, want from the British Government if it's to achieve the release of those three hostages?

[Velayati] Yes, you know that the British Government has strong influence over the Phalangist groups in Lebanon and also the Government of Israel, and both these parties have some of the hostages from Lebanese and Palestinians and the Iranians. If they use their moral influences for the getting of the release of these hostages, that could be considered as the positive response from the other side.

[Snow] Right, so if Britain brings its influence on the Phalange, that will encourage you to bring pressure on Hizballah in Beirut to release Terry Waite, for example?

[Velayati] Yes, you're right.

[Snow] Now, are you then saying that if all that happens—as the editor of the TEHRAN TIMES today said—that the Western hostages could all be out by the end of this year?

[Velayati] We do hope that all hostages, regardless of their own nationalities, will be released as soon as possible; but all of us--Britain, the United States, Iran, and Lebanese—which have hostages in Lebanon and Israel, if we have a collective cooperation together, we do hope that all hostages will be released, regardless of their own nationalities.

[Snow] And Mr. Velayati, what about the other crucial difference between Iran and Britain over Roger Cooper, the imprisoned Briton in Tehran, who the British say is not a spy: Why not let him go?

[Velayati] This is not our job to talk about the accusation of Mr. Cooper. The Justice Department should decide about that.

[Snow] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much for joining us.

Paper Stresses Western Goodwill in Hostage Issue

LD2404094890 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—A morning daily today stressed that although the hostage taking in Lebanon was initiated by the West, to solve the problem, Lebanese Muslims pioneered by releasing an American hostage last Sunday [22 April]. [sentence as received]

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI', in an editorial titled "West's Goodwill Under Trial", noted that it was now the West's turn to exert pressure on the Phalangists and Israel to put an end to their brutal kidnapping of Lebanese people. "If hostage taking is condemned, why has the West remained indifferent vis-a-vis kidnapping of 3,000 Lebanese Muslims by the Phalangists?" argued the daily.

It also rebuked West's silence over the illegal entry of Israeli forces into Lebanon and kidnapping of 400 Lebanese.

Understanding and showing sympathy towards problems and sufferings of Lebanese people by the Islamic Republic of Iran has made the Lebanese to come to the conclusion that Iran has good will towards Lebanese issues and is for their prosperity, the editorial noted.

"It is a well established fact that activities of certain underground Muslim groups more than being an 'action' is a 'reaction', reaction by those who probably have no other alternative for 'retaliation' and punishment of their foes," it stressed.

The daily concluded by asking whether the West could comprehend this humanistic measure of the Lebanese Muslims stating that it will take sometime before the answer is out. But, it stressed, obviously the Lebanese people have proved in action that they could no longer tolerate crimes of the West and would react—a reaction which others will not find it pleasing.

British Paper, IRNA Bureau Chief on Hostages

LD2304204290 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] London, April, 23, IRNA—There is "no indication" that the release of American, Robert Polhill, from captivity in Lebanon on Sunday 22 April], "will begin to unlock doors for the British hostages", because "despite the absence of any ransom demands for the British (hostages), it is clear that the shadow of 'The Satanic Verses' continues to weigh against them", the British weekly, the OBSERVER has said.

The weekly stated that Husayn al-Musawi, a man the paper described as "a pivotal figure in the Islamic movement in Lebanon", asked, in response to reporters questions as to whether British hostages might be released, "How is Salman Rushdie?".

Rushdie is now in hiding at great cost to the British tax-payer and himself, after the late Imam Khomeyni pronounced a fatwa [edict] condemning him to death, because of his deliberate publication of an anti-Islamic book. Al-Musawi is also quoted in the OBSERVER as inquiring "Who knows where he (Rushdie) is?" and added "He will die, have no doubt".

Regarding the release of the American hostage, the OBSERVER felt that "even if the Islamic Jihad's promised release materialises, a solution to the hostage problem (as a whole) is still expected to be long and hard, with no clear place in it for the British hostages".

But the British weekly reported al-Musawi as saying that "most Iranian leaders now favoured closing the hostage file" and that "there was progress towards the release of Shi'a prisoners held by Israel".

However, on the subject of the British hostages—Brian Keenan, John McCarthy, Terry Waite and Jackie Mann—the weekly reported that al-Musawi was "wholly negative" and added that he said " I have never heard anything about them, there is no indication that they are dead or alive".

Four Iranians, including one journalist, were kidnapped by the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon in 1982, an incident which sparked off the long saga of hostage-taking in that country. Some intelligence reports suggest that at least one of these, the IRNA cameraman Mr. Kazem Akhvan, is alive and has been detained at the notorious Abu Ghuraib prison in Baghdad. He was passed on by the Phalangists, to their backers in Baghdad.

According to the OBSERVER, al-Musawi also said that "hope is fading" for the lives of the three Iranians kidnapped by Christian militiamen in East Beirut in 1982. The paper believed that this was "another negative development for Britain, given the link to the British hostages established by Iran".

The weekly also quoted Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, referring to him as "the leader of the Iranian radicals". He is reported to have denounced Terry Waite as a spy last month. The paper added that Mohtashemi linked Waite's name "to that of Colonel William Higgins, the murdered American Marine, and declared that 'the fatwa on spying in Islamic countries is death'."

IRNA's bureau chief in London today emphasised that although the West has come to accept the Islamic revolution as it is, Iranians believe that the British attitude must change towards Islamic values, before the UK Government should expect any development in relations between London and Tehran.

Mr. H. Houshangi, who was interviewed by the BBC's Breakfast News programme, also said that he wished he could have reported "good news regarding the Iranian hostages in Lebanon". And he stressed he was pleased that one hostage had been freed, adding that the mothers of the Iranian hostages are longing for the same news of their loved ones.

Commentary Says Crisis Needs More Than Goodwill

LD2304210190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Robert Polhill, the U.S. hostage who was released in Lebanon yesterday [22 April], was handed over to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus on Monday morning, after having remained in captivity for nearly three years. [passage omitted].

In recent times fervent efforts have been made by various groups for settling the hostages issue and for closing this file forever, in view of the humanistic aspects of the problem. Various circles believe that in view of the positive response of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] to numerous requests made for the release of the hostages and as referred to the humanistic aspect of the problem in the statement issued by the IJLP, while freeing the U.S. hostage, one must also pay attention to the reality that goodwill on the part of the IJLP alone will not suffice to bring and end to the hostage-taking problem in the region.

The reason is that the Palestine occupying-regime has not only taken hundreds, but rather, thousands of the [word indistinct] Lebanese people as captive in Lebanon, contrary to all the international recognized norms, and transferred them to the occupied regions. Till the time a reciprocal goodwill is not shown by the Zionist regime and its global allies, it will be hard to imagine that the hostage-taking has entered its final stages [as heard].

As is already known, Arab citizens, especially the Lebanese and the Palstinians are being kept as hostages by the Zionist regime and many of them are also (?lodged) in the jails of Western states. At the same time four Iranians are being held as hostages in Lebanon. Israel, by regularly launching attacks against Lebannon or against the homes of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, kidnaps a number of Lebanese or Palestinian citizens and puts them in Zionist jails. Since the emergence of the hostages issue in Lebanon, a well-organized propaganda campaign has been focused by the Western mass media on the situation of the Western hostages and they are still propagating the issue that, it has overshadowed the condition of the Palestinian and Lebanese detainees as well as that of the non-Arab hostages. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that attention to the Western hostages in Lebanon is automatically [word indistinct] the proper rule because of its humanistic aspects, any deliverate disregard of the rights of other humans, especially those of the Muslim people of Palestine and Lebanon, will be an implausible act.

Those countries which consider themselves as (?advocates) of human rights, while (?giving) an issue like hostage-taking such vast dimensions should not remain an observer of the infringement of the rights of other nations.

Islamic Jihad Calls for Reciprocity of 'Goodwill'

NC2304175390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization has issued a statement saying that the final decision to release Polhill was made following the efforts exerted by a religious leader and officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. The organization reiterated that it has demonstrated its goodwill and pushed the issue toward a solution. The other side must now show its goodwill as well, the Islamic Jihad organization added.

Israel Accused of Foiling Hostage Release

LD2204131590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] As you have heard in the news, six Hizballah members were martyred last night during the latest

clashes between the forces of the revolutionary Lebanese Hizballah movement and the occupying Zionist forces. [passage omitted]

The heavy clashes between the Lebanese Hizballah and the Israeli Army took place after members of that revolutionary organization staged a widespread demonstrations in Ba'lbak, in the north of the scene of the clash, on the occasion of International Jerusalem Day. Thousands of armed Hizballah members staged a glorious military march during the ceremony.

It seems that, more than anything else, this show of strength frightened the Zionist enemy and its internal agents, so that they attempted to deal a heavy blow to the Hizballah. On the other hand, the battle between the Hizballah and the Zionist army took place as the occupying regime is facing a political crisis, which results from the pressure brought on by the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine, the downfall of the government, and the fact that no faction in that regime is able to form a new government. To attain that goal, Yitzhaq Shamir ordered an attack on Lebanon to divert public opinion inside occupied Palestine away from the domestic crisis. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, some analysts point out that the Israeli military agression took place while there are several reports on the possible release of a Western hostage.

The Islamic Jihad organization for the Liberation of Palestine annouced some time ago that it intended to release one of the three Western hostages it was holding. But, because one of the demands of that organization—that is for John Kelly, the U.S. under-secretary of state to go to Damascus—was not met, it was delayed.

Those analysts believe that, in the present circumstances, the Zionist regime does not consider the release of the hostages in its interests and that, by attacking revolutionary Muslims, it intends to provoke the secret Lebanese hostage-taking organizations and prevent their humanitarian task from being accomplished.

Last month our country's deputy foreign minister stressed that the Zionist regime has twice foiled the efforts to secure the release of the hostages.

Analysts believe that one of the conditions for the release of the hostages is possibly the release of a number of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Zionists jails and that because, considering the domestic crisis the Zionist regime is facing, it cannot afford to lose such an advantage, it therefore tries to sabotage philanthropic efforts to secure the release of the hostages. Those sources add that the Israeli regime generally opposes any factor which may result in the improvement of the situation in Lebanon or relations between the various governments in the region, and constantly tries to complicate the situation, particularly in Lebanon.

*Hezbollah Officials Comment on Hostages

90OI0226B London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Sheykh Sobhi Tufayli, secretary-general of the Hezbollah, told the REUTER correspondent Friday [30 March] in Lebanon: If the West is not willing to solve any of the Islamic government's problems, no help will be forthcoming to release the hostages. He said: The Westerners must give an affirmative answer to the demands of the kidnappers for the hostages to be freed. He added: The Islamic Republic, which has an extensive presence in Lebanon, can use its influence to solve the hostage issues. He stressed: If someone expects a service from Iran, he must pay the price.

Following the remarks of Sheykh Sobhi Tufayli, on Sunday [1 April] Sheykh Hoseyn Musavi, leader of the Islamic Amal Organization, asked America to answer in the affirmative to the demands of the Islamic government so they can act to release the hostages.

Sheykh Hoseyn Musavi, speaking in Lebanon for a radio interview, stressed that as long as the rightful demands of Tehran and the Islamic forces are not met, it will not be possible to release the hostages.

Mohtashemi Comments on Israeli Government Crisis

NC2304123090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Mar 90 p 20

[Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi commentary: "Observations on the Differences Among Ruling Parties in Occupied Palestine"]

[Text] Following the culmination of the so-called crisis in the government of the regime occupying Palestine and Shim'on Peres' departure from Yitzhaq Shamir's cabinet, all Labor Party ministers resigned and thus put an unprecedented block before the Shamir government. Thus, the Israeli prime minister called for the Parliament to give a vote of confidence, which he did not receive.

Political observers' various analyses have been made on the basis of a wrong presumption, which shows their naivete. This wrong presumption is that the rooted and serious opposition by the Likud Party to Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership and by the Labor Party to Shim'on Peres' leadership is deep within the Israeli cabinet and that it is because of the culmination of this opposition that Shamir's government fell. Likud believes in annihilating Palestine by resorting to military strength and to a so-called iron fist policy, while Labor believes in negotiations and peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians.

The views expressed in political circles after the recent incidents within the Israeli Government are as follows:

A. The reason for the downfall of Shamir's government is his and his foreign minister's strong and inflexible opposition to the four-point plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Baker. By adopting a policy of detente in various critical areas in the world, such as Israel in

particular, the U.S. Administration supports talks and peace between the Israeli Government and the Palestinians. Thus, since the United States is seriously pursuing this policy and supporting those who favor it within the Shamir cabinet and parliament, the government fell. Analysts conclude and imply that the world's countries and nations must inevitably follow U.S. policies; otherwise they will fall. It is within this context that they view the resignation of the Likud Party cabinet.

B. Irrespective of the plan proposed by the U.S. secretary of state, the Likud Party opposes any kind of talks and official recognition of the rights of the Palestinian nation, while the Labor Party and Shim'on Peres agree about talks and peace with the Palestinians. Also, the persistent three-year Palestinian uprising and the fruitlessness of Yitzhaq Shamir's policies of terror and suppression led to the strengthening of Shim'on Peres' position and, ultimately, to Yitzhaq Shamir's downfall.

But the truth is that the commotion created within the occupying regime is nothing but a smokescreen and a puppet show by the Israel leaders. Behind the scenes, these elements are pursuing a common objective and are moving hand-in-hand. The producers and directors of these plays are the experts of the U.S. political and security services, and the Labor and Likud Parties are two sides of one coin and are possibly pursuing the following objectives:

1. To downplay the crimes perpetrated by the armed forces of the regime occupying Palestine in stifling the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation.

2. To further postpone a solution to the Palestinian problem.

3. To tell world public opinion that the leaders of the regime occupying Palestine have varying views and thus to ease the pressure this public opinion is exerting over granting the Palestinian nation its rights.

4. To weaken the ranks of the Palestinian Muslims and to instill imaginary hopes by feigning a sham war among the leaders of the regime occupying Palestine.

5. To create a pretext for the compromising Arab and Palestinian leaders to postpone a serious struggle against Israel.

6. To stabilize the arrogant and abject policies of the United States on the Palestinian nation and to portray this as a point that has been gained through U.S. efforts for the people of Palestine, at a time when the U.S. plan is nothing more than the destruction of the rights of the Palestinian nation and their further bondage and homelessness.

7. The leaders of the regime occupying Palestine and the United States have always wanted to create a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. A prologue to the implementation of this policy is the immigration of more than 1 million Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe and their settlement in the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. This will make more Palestinians homeless within the next five years, at which time Israel will—as a first step—establish its sovereignty over all the occupied Palestinian territories and will then proceed to stabilize and to expand. This policy is backed by both the Likud and the Labor Party. In other words, both parties have the same strategy but different tactics.

Until yesterday, the suppression, terror, and so-called iron fist of the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir were used to implement this policy, while today—in view of the defeat of the Shamir cabinet's policy of suppression—the other side of the same coin—the policy of creating a greater Israel through plots, ploys, hypocrisy, and so-called talks—is being shown by the Labor Party.

Under such conditions, the stand of pure Muhammadan Islam and of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic is to reveal the overt and covert plots by the United States and Zionism and to fight these plots in all their stages.

The risen Palestinian nation and the jihad movements inside the occupied territories, led by the Islamic organizations of the Islamic Jihad, should join in a coordinated movement and continue to inflict their blows on the rotten body of the occupying regime and on the U.S. mercenaries inside and outside of Palestine. They should not allow any talks or compromise to take place with the Zionist enemy and world-devouring America over the pure bodies of the Palestinian martyrs. They should not be fooled by the policies and machinations of the various leaders of a regime that has usurped Palestine. They should continue their efforts toward the establishment of an Islamic and popular rule in great Palestine and their destiny-making war. It is the duty of the Islamic ummah and the Hezbollahi forces to use all possible means to rise in support of the Palestinian nation.

The United States has to accept the fact that, as long as the regime occupying Palestine is in power, the occupied territories will continue to be serious hotbeds of tension for the superpowers. Israel, which has been planted by America and the West as a cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic world, has now become a gangrenous sore on the ugly and vile face of arrogance; and America and the world have no alternative but to excise this cancerous tumor.

Majles Speaker Karrubi Condemns 'Hoarders'

LD2304095190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Address by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi at religious ceremony at Imami Khomeyni shrine near Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, Tehran, on 16 April]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted] I have said all I wanted to say about the importance of Jerusalem Day. However,

there is a second issue, which is an internal matter. I pointed to this issue in my speech on 1 April in Imam Husayn Square [Tehran]. This issue concerns confrontation against economic terrorists, hoarders, and against those who are becoming fatter everyday. Let me tell you about what has happened so far to this issue, and let me also tell you that with assistance and blessing from God I will pursue this issue until it bears good fruit.

First, we said that if there is need for legislation then the Majles is ready. One must thank all the mass media, Majles, officials—particularly Ayatollah Meshkini, who talked about this issue in his Friday prayer sermons in Qom—who helped the continued investigation into issue. In particular the Majles' work is praiseworthy. That is to say that in its first session, through the cooperation of some brothers from judicial organs, the Majles compiled a bill, the urgency of the bill was underlined. It was intentional that we gave the bill just a single urgency—although we could have given it double or triple urgency—because we wanted to know the opinions of the judicial organs, the Council of Guardians, and other legal forums. [as heard] So we received the Majles' approval about the bill's single urgency in order for it pass it to the relevant commissions and to give those gentlemen plenty of time to express their opinion in order that we may compile a good and well-calculated bill.

As the official in charge of Majles affairs I must tell you that the bill's urgency was ratified by the Majles with a very strong majority, and then the bill, as a single-clause bill with single urgency, was referred to the commission. Following that, we had some meetings with some friends, including the esteemed head of judicial power, and we discussed some matters. It became clear, as I expected, that the judicial officials expressed their full readiness to follow up this bill so that it produces its desired effects. Ayatollah Yazdi also had some good and constructive suggestions which must certainly receive attention in the commission.

However, what I personally seek to pursue is this: You see, my brothers, the issue is that we have bottlenecks and economic problems. We have inadequate levels of production, and we need planning. There is no arguement about these issues. [passage omitted] What is important can be summarized in the following terms: Firstly, the boys on our battle fronts, our Hezbollah forces, those people who sacrificed their lives for revolution, the people who are present in such gatherings such as this today, and who have endured all hardships for the sake of the revolution—all these people are being crushed under the weight of inflation, hoarding, and other impurities. The pressure of life is too hard and too much for them. If such a thing is due to shortages, or due to a course of struggle and holy crusade, then such people do not complain, they do not argue. As they have said many times, they are prepared to endure most hardships for the sake of the revolution. [passage omitted] However, what is important is that the people are suffering from the fact that in a society where people make such sacrifices, there are a number of people who misuse the situation by indulging in hoarding and theft. [passage omitted]

I have no arguement against healthy production. I would like to declare here that we have no quarrel with those who are engaged in proper business activities, make proper investment, take steps on the path of industry, agriculture and production in general, or even those who have invested in Kish Island, and those who are cooperating with the government. Investments must be made, and the private sector must be strengthened to a reasonable degree.

What I wish to say is that those who confront the regime [as heard], those who discourage farmers from selling their crops to the government, those who form gangs having ties with elements inside and outside the country, those who say: In order to preserve the current [black market] rates of foreign currency—even if the government provides $1 billion, you should buy it, take it abroad, and then bring in smuggled goods, so that the government is discredited... [pauses, leaves sentence unfinished] That is the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a government the imam had so much faith in, in its head—even though the government was not yet formed—a government which was involved in the revolution from the outset, a government which tackled all problems.

I officially announce here that they [government economic opponents] have now confessed this: Yes, we did those things in order to confront the system and prevent the government's success. This issue must be followed up, so that with God's assistance, 10 of those people should be hanged in Azadi Square. Unless this happens, nothing can be done. [chants of support]

You see brothers—pay attention—as I said on that day [1 April] and I say again today, we have crushed the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the leftist groups, and the smugglers. But we have not confronted hoarders and others who are sucking people's blood like vampires. We can endure problems due to shortcomings and bottlenecks, but when they are trying to use market forces for their benefits...[pauses, does not finish sentence] How is it that in the case pertaining to smugglers we do not say: let us guide and admonish them. Instead we say: Let us execute them. Or why do we not say let us guide the Mojahedin-e Khalq? Executions can have a good effect.

My brothers! I have made some investigations. I would like to tell you about them. I have been talking with judicial officials and prison wardens, and learned that despite all the hoarding and theft which has taken place recently, we do not have one single person who is serving a mere two-year prison term for such crimes. The same system that fought against smugglers and Mojahedin-e Khalq to such a degree does not have one of hoarder behind bars serving a two-year prison term. It makes no difference to us whether such persons are from state

organs, institutions, foundations, ministries, or the private sector. It makes no difference to us.

God willing, we will follow it up. My last word is that I say the issue will soon be ratified by the Majlis. We have already talked with the judicial establishment. Thank God they are ready for it. Some revolutionary judges—who have already meted out justice to many of the enemies of god—came to me the say day and told me that they were ready to handle it. They said they were ready to give their word. They knew who the real ringleaders were. However, they said that the ringleaders have not been dealt with decisively. What is needed to be done must be done. [passage omitted]

At this point, while we are gathered next to the shrine of the imam, I address those who used to intervene on behalf of these people [as heard], those who used to act as intermediaries, those who used to telephone here or there to mediate on their behalf. I tell them that if anybody tries to mediate on behalf of such people then we will announce their names. We will announce the names of those who intervene in favor of these people. If we publish their names then they should not complain.

Before I finish my remarks I recall the committee went to see the imam in 1979 to tell him that the usurers have inflicted harm on the people. We asked permission to investigate. He gave us permission—may his soul be sanctified. [passage omitted] We keep some documents because we need them. The title deed to a house is needed because you may one day decide to sell your house. If you obtain a document in the form of university certificate it is needed because you may one day intend to be employed. But if you have paid a donation for God 15 years ago, why should you keep that document? It is a means of pretending that one is pious, and then used in such matters. [passage omitted]

Please pay attention. This problem will have to be solved. Just as the problems of the hypocrites and the smugglers were surgically removed, so will be the problem of hoarding, economic terrorism, and the like be solved. It does not matter whether it [as heard] solves the problem of not. It costs nothing to try this approach. Let us try this method at least once. We have already sent many people to the gallows because they were apostates and enemies of God, and we did it justly. Now let us send two couples of capitalists to the gallows. What harm will there be to Islam from such an approach. Therefore, we do not intend to engage in empty slogans. [passage omitted]

Guardian Council Members on Punishing Hoarders

LD2204131190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] During a radio-television news conference, Messrs Emami-Kashani and Mehrpur, two members of the Guardian Council, described the council's legal duties towards the bills approved by the Islamic Majles and explained the council's views vis-a-vis economic problems and the fight against profiteering and hoarding. According to a report of our correspondent, during the conference, Mr. Emami-Kashani, referring to the approved law on more severe punishment for hoarders and over-chargers, said: This law was passed by the Islamic Majles and approved by the Guardian Council too; and on the basis of Article 6 of this law, if the objective of over-charging and hoarding is considered to be an act undertaken to oppose the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the hoarder and over-charger can even be executed as one who wages war against God and must be killed [mohareb], and the Guardian Council has approved this case and will do so [as heard].

Mr. Mehrpur, while stressing that the issues of the day make it necessary to pass a law against hoarders and over-chargers and that under existing circumstances in the country such criminals deserve severe punishment, said: The legislative system, bearing in mind all the circumstances, must pass a law to stop hoarding and over-charging for essential commodities required by the public. He added: In this connection the Islamic Majles previously passed a law, which considers the act of hoarding and over-charging as a clear example of waging war against God, and the penalty it has envisaged is the punishment of execution; and in the opinion of the Guardian Council too, this is fine as long as the mitigating circumstances are taken into account.

On confiscating the assets of the over-chargers, hoarders, and drug peddlers, Mr. Emani-Kashani said when referring to the article 49 of the constitution: The Guardian Council, by agreeing to the confiscation of such individuals' assets, informed the Majles that this should be done in accordance with the shari'a [religious] and legal regulations, and the Majles should add the words "punishment and fine" to this law, so that the assets of the said individuals can be confiscated as punishment. This was approved in the Majles and also endorsed by the Guardian Council.

In reply to a question asked by our correspondent on the fate of a draft bill passed to the government by the Majles, the member of the jurisconsults of the Guardian Council said: On this issue the Majles cannot order the government, nor can the government interfere in the work of the Majles; either of these two bodies, however, can raise any bill or draft that they deem necesary in the Majles.

Mr. Mehrpur, referring to Article 49 of the constitution, said: The courts mentioned in this article can investigated the wealth accumulated by over-chargers, hoarders, and narcotics smugglers. These courts will issue their verdict on confiscation of such wealth, whereby on the first instance these assets are returned to the immediate victim; otherwise they will be confiscated by the government. Referring to the criticism raised by the Guardian Council on this matter, he said: Thanks to the ratification of the bill on the punishment of hoarders and over-chargers for the second time at the Islamic Majles, the Guardian Council informed the Majles on 28

February 1988 that the bill is not contrary to the shari'a regulations and the constitutions; the bill, therefore, became a law and now it must be implemented.

On the government's obligation to submit draft bills to the Majles, Mr. Mehrpur said: Since the government has a cadre of experts and the necessary means of recognizing the social and economic problems, and since it is the government which compiles the budget, it can raise a draft bill at the Majles whenever it wishes; one cannot, thus, say that this is an obligatory issue, because this would be interpreted as interference by the legislative power in the affairs of the executive power. Mr. Mehrpur pointed out: Of course if the Majles deputies were to feel that the government is negligent on a certain issue and is not submitting the necessary draft bill to the Majles, they can question the government or censure a motion.

On the Guardian Council's obligation to respond to the approved bills of the Islamic Majles, he said: In the case of claims, the Guardian Council should announce its opinion in 10 days or after a maximum period of 20 days; and in urgent cases too, it should announce its answer and opinion to the Islamic Majles within a maximum period of 24 hours. On the need for the presence or absence of the Guardian Council at the Islamic Majles session, Mr. Mehrpur said: Article 97 of the constitution stresses that the Guardian Council members can attend the Majles debates in order to speed up investigations and to express their own opinion; only when an urgent bill is debated in the agenda of the Islamic Majles are the Guardian Council members duty bound to attend the session to express their views.

At the conclusion of this conference, Mr. Emami-Kashani said: For solving the economic problem one should apply correct procedures; and since President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is fully aware of economic and social matters, it is hoped that these problems will be eliminated. He emphasized: Profiteering by swindlers and leech-like characters, who do not believe in the revolution, the leader, and the system, must be halted and such individuals must be brought to their knees: and for this purpose you must all support Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; and in this connection the Guardian Council is fully prepared to support the government's programs for removing the economic problems and improving the economic prospect of the deprived and the oppressed.

Admiral Discusses Upcoming Naval Maneuvers

LD2304105890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0749 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, at this point in the program, we invite you to listen to our correspondent's interview with Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the honorable commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, about the importance of the Sahand joint naval maneuvers, which will take place in early May.

[Begin recording] [correspondent] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Dear listeners, we continue the program in the presence of Rear Admiral Shamkhani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval commander. Let me draw your attention to a brief interview with him. Admiral, it has been reported that the navy will be undertaking maneuvers. If possible, please say something about the forthcoming naval maneuvers for this program's dear listeners.

[Shamkhani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In light of training and operational requirements for the purpose of increasing the preparedness of the Armed Forces and maintaining combat capability to defend the sea borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in each May a joint maneuver by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and Air Force and the naval force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps will take place in the Persian Gulf in the (?second) naval district.

The aim of the maneuver is to raise the capacity for coordinated action by two of the Armed Forces and the Guard Corps in order to consolidate and increase security in the Persian Gulf and to increase our preparedness for confronting any kind of threat, especially the threat of the active enemy which, by means of a variety of ploys, has so far evaded decisive implementation of Resolution 598. We hope that in the course of the maneuver, we will fully achieve the aims we have in mind.

Our maneuver in early May is also aimed at maintaining the spirit of selflessness which the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy showed in confrontation with the United States in the battle of the month of Farvardin 1367 [month beginning 21 March 1988], honoring the martyrs of that battle; and maintaining the spirit of anger against and hatred for arrogance, a spirit based on Islamic beliefs and the preservation of pure Mohammadan Islam. We will undertake the great Sahand maneuver in early May.

As you know, the destroyers Sahand and Sabalan were two destroyers which were able to prove several things in the unequal battle of the month of Farvardin 1367: First, that the weapon of blood against swords is still effective; second, contrary to the expectation of the U.S. forces, who thought that they had terrified the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, we accepted the danger in an unequal battle and fought heart and soul against the United States. The result was undoubtedly humiliation and degradation for the United States because in continuation of that same path, the Americans attacked our defenseless oil platforms.

We will therefore undertake the Sahand maneuver in various stages and in the course of three days in the Persian Gulf, in the second naval district of Bushehr.

[Correspondent] If possible, tell the program's dear listeners something about the navy's future programs, especially about the purchase of new equipment, and also about the repair and maintenance of equipment, and, in general, about the issue of self-sufficiency.

[Shamkhani] Unfortunately, as a result of repeated acts of mischief by Iraq in the region and the arms race which Iraq has begun, as induced by arrogance for the purpose of wasting the economic resources of this region's countries; after the acceptance of the resolution, Iraq, contrary to the adequate capability which it possesses, is engaged in reinforcing various aspects of its armed forces, especially at sea [sentence as heard]. And for the purpose of maintaining deterrence and the power of the combatants of Islam in the country's waterways and in the Persian Gulf and the strait of Hormuz, the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed greater emphasis than before on the Navy's important and fundamental role. On that basis, reinforcements are being undertaken for the provision of modern up-to-date equipment. God willing, after the preliminary stages of this project, we will have equipment which was not previously part of the combat structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy. [passage omitted]

As you know, we have various training programs for various ranks. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy possibly has the strongest naval training centers in the country today for two reasons: First, because it has technically well-trained cadres; second, because of the experience of eight years of war and the use of that experience in training. Our training centers for various ranks are, therefore, of a high level. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy possesses unique training centers for officers and NCO'S; the training centers, concerned with command, engineering, technical areas, ordnance and management, possess a special rank from the point of view of scientific capability.

In the country today, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy provides training services to naval organizations such as the revolution Guard Corps, the ports and shipping organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping organization, and the tanker shipping company; and it is natural that these training services, being of international standard, may also be provided to other Islamic countries. And, from the point of view of quality, level, and the healthy training and healthy environment, it is possibly a very suitable vehicle for transferring naval values to countries which need to increase their naval training capabilities. We are therefore prepared to do that. [end recording]

Afghan Mujahidin Groups Meet, Discuss Unity

LD2304205290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Three leaders of independent crusading [jihadi] Afghan groups and leaders and officials of that country's Islamic Unity Party [IUP—Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami] met in Tehran today. They evaluated their common stances while stressing the need for unity among all struggling Afghan groups.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the meeting talks were held on continuing the struggle against the Kabul regime, unity among all the struggling groups, and the establishment of an all-encompassing Islamic government throughout Afghanistan. Furthermore, it was proposed that for the purpose of exchaning opinions, summarizing shared stances, and safeguarding the interests of the Muslim struggling people of Afghanistan, a congress should be convened in Tehran in the near future, attended by leaders and officials of all the struggling Afghan groups.

The meeting continues among the leaders of the independent crusading Afghan groups. Officials from the IUP declared that one-sided plans and ratifications, which do not take account of all the struggling Afghan groups, are not considered legitimate and can not be implemented.

Majles Deputies Sign Letter Protesting Hajj Ban

NC2304145590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] A letter signed by 140 Majles deputies on the ban by the Saudi rulers on Iranians' pilgrimages to the House of God, calling all Muslims to carry out the disavowal of the pagans, was read at the end of today's Islamic Majles session. The letter is as follows:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

With the advent of the hajj season, the eager and obedient Muslims are ready for an audience in the holy house of God. However, the revolutionary Muslims of Iran who thirst for and desire to encircle the House of monotheism and are clamoring for this great blessing, which is their firm right, are deprived of it, because the Saudi rulers, who spilled the sacred blood of the guests of God in the precincts of the holy Ka'bah, have blocked the path of God and are preventing the performance of this obligation.

They consider the house of God their personal shelter and consider it their prerogative that the divine obligation should be treated frivolously to suit their own interests and gains. In view of the fact that the hajj to the holy house of God, the Ka'bah, is the right of all the Muslims of the world and a divine obligation, no one has the right to prevent or impede its performance, in the path of God, we, the Islamic Majles deputies, call on all the Muslims of the world and the devoted and true scholars to consider the Saudi rulers the culprits and to remove the obstacles that are blocking the Muslim Iranian nation's path toward the house of God.

It is clear that when this is done the following should be noted and implemented by the rulers of Saudi Arabia:

1. The Saudi rulers should admit to and apologize for their treachery to the meek Iranian pilgrims.

2. They should pay the diyat [blood money prescribed by the shari'ah] as compensation for the blood of the Muslim martyrs that was shed unlawfully.

3. They should return or reimburse assets seized from the Iranian pilgrims and their caravans.

4. The number of the Iranian pilgrims should be maintained at the number permitted in 1987, that is, a minimum of 150,000 this year.

5. The Iranian pilgrims and all other pilgrims should be permitted to perform freely the rituals of the hajj of Ibrahim and to disavow the pagans in accordance with the decree of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

'Tens of Thousands' of Armenians March in Tehran

NC2404104290 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 24 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of Armenians living in Iran staged a march in northern Tehran Tuesday [24 April] to mark the 75th anniversary of what they said was the massacre of Turkish Armenians in 1915.

The demonstration was to end before the headquarters of United Nations representatives here.

Dozens of Armenians on Monday began a 24-hour sit-in outside the headquarters and distributed tracts denouncing "the silence" of international bodies on "the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians" by Ottoman rulers then in power in Turkey.

The statement accused Ankara of "fascism" for its refusal to recognize the reality of the Armenian "genocide."

More than 200,000 are today living in Iran.

Protest 1915 Turkish 'Massacre'

LD2304144390 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—A group of representatives of the Armenian Christian sect in Iran, started a 24-hour sit-in protest in front of the United Nations Office here today, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the claimed massacre of Armenians by Ottoman Turkey. The Armenians are protesting what they call the silence of the international forums towards the massacre said to have taken place in April 1915. The Armenians claim that 1.5 million members of their sect were killed and many others forced to migrate, a charge which Turkey denies.

The protesting Armenians, distributed leaflets to passers-by, castigated as 'facist' the governments successing the Ottoman Empire, for not shouldering the responsibility of the massacre.

Meanwhile, a ceremony was held in the biggest Armenian church here this afternoon to commemorate the massacre.

Situated in the Caucasus, Armenia like neighbouring Georgia was for centuries a bone of contention between the Turkish and Persian empires, before it was swallowed up by Czarist Russia in the late 19th century.

U.S. Accused of Giving Iraq Chemical Weapons

NC2204135290 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 10 Apr 90 p 8

[Political commentary: "A Sword in the Hand of an Inebriated Moor!"]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

In a press interview, Saddam, the head of the Iraqi ruling regime, expressed his apprehension over the possibility of straining relations with the United States. He mentioned the names of those who collectively plan to exert pressure in order to mar the deep and cordial relations between Baghdad and Washington.

Saddam's interview took place as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was concluding his visit to Iraq. This visit to Baghdad took place in order to convey President George Bush's message to Saddam. Even though the contents of the letter were not divulged, informed sources link Bush's message directly to Saddam's recent radio speech on his official claim of having chemical weapons at his disposal and his ostensible threat to Israel.

In addition to the wave of astonishment it generated in the Western media, Saddam's speech admitting possession of advanced binary chemical weapons also implicates the United States directly in equipping Iraq with these weapons. In view of the fact that no country in the world produces these advanced weapons except the United States and the Soviet Union, Saddam's admitting the fact that he possesses these weapons places the heavy burden of blame directly on the shoulders of those who produce them. The fact that Saddam has committed such a crime against the West probably stems from two factors. One is the discovery of the nuclear trigger devices destined for Iraq, dispatched by the United States at London's Heathrow airport, in retaliation for the execution of the British OBSERVER correspondent. The second is Saddam's mental state resulting from his political failures.

A Western analyst commenting on Saddam said that despite his power-hungry and ruthless dictatorial nature, the Iraqi president has a conspicuous weakness of character. This is that he has surpassed his normal state of mind which borders on lunacy and is in the throes of a difficult condition resulting from his failures. Regardless of whatever the reason may be for Saddam's acknowledging his possession of advanced chemical weapons, the United States had to resort to another of its agents in the region—Mubarak—to find out about Saddam.

Facts and figures indicate that perhaps Bush's prescription has served to draw Saddam out of his mental condition, as Saddam discarded his anti-Western stance after meeting with Mubarak and criticized the international media for its dissemination of his recent speech by saying: We sometimes observe that efforts are made to mar relations between Iraq and the United States.

Following his meeting with Saddam, Mubarak also elaborated: My visit to Iraq was intended to mitigate this tension. He added that he had assured the United States and the Western countries that Iraq is not a country which desires war.(!)

Meanwhile, it may be said that whether Saddam admitted possession of advanced chemical weapons as a result of a temporary bout of insanity or whether it emanated from his power lust in the region and the Arab world, it is for the world public opinion to ponder over the dangers of the issue and wonder why the United States or sources close to it have placed advanced binary chemical weapons in the hand of a criminal with a past record.

Italian Envoy Summoned Over Warship Sales

LD2204173290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] The Italian ambassador in Tehran was today summoned by the director general for West European Affairs to explain the news issued by the official Italian newsagency, ANSA, about the foreign trade minister remarks about the delivery of warships [navche-haye jangi] which were ordered by Iraq from Italy.

In this meeting, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's West European Affairs department, emphasizing the need to preserve peace, stability and security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region, said: What is expected from Italy is that it would strenuously avoid any move which would weakening the peace trend and the implementation of Resolution 598 and would provoke tension in the region. Pointing to the news issued about the production and deployment of dangerous weapons by Iraq in the region, he expressed the Iranian government's grave concern about the renewed plan concerning the warships and its negative impact on the regional peace trend.

Confirming the news the Italian ambassador said that he will convey, as soon as possible, this information to his government and will inform our country's Foreign Ministry about the Italian Government's official position.

Spokesman Explains Imbroglio

LD2204225190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced yesterday afternoon: The delivery to Iraq of 11 frigates built in Italy was tied to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and solving the dispute between Iran and Iraq. He told the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY [IRNA] in Rome: It is not possible to deliver the frigates [nav-ha] to Iraq at present because this matter does not conform to UN laws, especially Resolution 598. The spokesman stressed that the decision to deliver the frigates to Iraq was taken so as to solve the internal problems of Italian firms, and in reality, it is a sign of a solution to technical and financial problems of the frigates and not their delivery [as heard].

The 11 warships [kashti-ye jangi] had been ordered by Iraq, at the start of the imposed war, to be built by the Italian (Fincantri) shipbuilding firm, but the delivery of these warships never took place due to political pressure from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the passing of a law in the Italian parliament which forbade the delivery of military equipment to two countries in the process of war. One of these frigates which was being delivered to the Iraqi regime was stopped in the port of Alexandria in Egypt after that law was ratified. The nondelivery of these 11 frigates by Italy to Iraq led to numerous financial disputes between the two countries. The Italian foreign trade minister and a spokesman of that ministry have also emphasized: Only the financial aspects of Iraq's frigates have been solved—the political issues have to be solved by the political officials of four ministries of that country, and should be assessed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

*Guard's Air Force Headquarters Blown Up

90OI0226D London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] On 12 Farvardin [1 April], on the anniversary of the referendum on the Islamic Republic, a huge explosion destroyed the revolutionary guard Air Force center at Azadi (Shahyad) Square.

Reza Pahlavi's press office, which cabled this news to all the world's major press agencies on 12 Farvardin, announced that following the disturbances and confusion in the wake of this huge explosion in west Tehran, constitutionalists, chanting anti-regime slogans, called for free elections in Iran and distributed pictures of Reza Pahlavi and his New Year's message among the people of Iran over a large area from Azadi (Shahyad) Square to Fawziyeh Square.

The revolutionary guard air force center destroyed in this explosion was located at the large Karaj Road entrance to Shahyad Square.

Reza Pahlavi's office did not give news correspondents information about casualties inflicted. It is likely that since 12 Farvardin is a holiday, only a small number of revolutionary guard air force personnel were present at the center. According to this same report, following this explosion the regime declared an alert in west Tehran.

Lackluster Ceremonies at Fawziyeh Square

Ceremonies held for 12 Farvardin by the Islamic regime at Fawziyeh square were less successful than in any

previous years. According to a telephone report from Tehran, the crowd of Hezbollahis at Fawziyeh Square did not even fill the entire square, although the regime made every effort to draw people to these ceremonies, and the Islamic foundations and groups had been distributing circulars for weeks calling on the nation of partisans of God to attend these ceremonies.

Sheykh Mohammad Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, who spoke at these ceremonies, spoke of nothing new other than the need to execute "economic terrorists."

The 12 Farvardin ceremonies in the nation's municipalities were quite brief and poorly attended, and the Islamic Republic News Agency gave no important reports on them.

Nepal & Bhutan

Further on Pro-Democracy Movement

Demonstrators Surround Palace

OW2304121990 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 23 April 90

[Text] [Video shows scenes of demonstrators who are seen gathered in front of a palace in Kathmandu] Several thousand demonstrators have blocked streets in Kathmandu to protest against violent police suppression of recent pro-democracy demonstrations. Democratic reform just started in Kathmandu when political activities were legalized earlier this month. Some 500 demonstrators are surrounding the palace of King Birendra, demanding that he leave the country immediately. Fo far, security police have not been mobilized to put down the demonstration.

Crowd Storms Police Headquarters

BK2304122890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 23 (AFP)—Police opened fire Monday [23 April] on a crowd trying to storm the police superintendent's office in Kathmandu, killing at least three people and wounding several others, a Nepali Congress source said. The protestors were shouting slogans against Nepal's monarchy and defunct single-party political system and demanding police action against gangs of vandals allegedly hired by hardliners in the ousted government, he said.

Carrying with them a few of the alleged "vandals" captured earlier in the day, the crowd also set on fire some government vehicles and tried to set alight a police station in the center of Kathmandu, he added.

The source, whose party heads Nepal's new coalition government, said Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was holding an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss situation.

Curfew Imposed

BK2304144090 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] His majesty's government has decided to impose a curfew in the Kathmandu town panchayat [council] area from 2000 this evening to 0600 tomorrow morning to prevent a few antisocial people from indulging in beating up and killing people, setting fire to government buildings, automobiles and private houses, and terrorizing the people.

Four Police, Six Mandales Killed

BK2304144890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] In Kathmandu, at least 10 persons have been killed in various incidents since last night. These include four policemen and six antidemocratic elements called Mandales who are opposed to the multiparty system. All these Mandales were caught by angry mobs while attempting to escape after acts of arson and violence. The killed policemen were allegedly involved in antisocial activities along with the Mandales.

Bhattarai Seeks Restraint, Patience

BK2404001490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1813 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 23 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai on Monday (23 April] appealed for restraint and patience as Nepal works to build its nascent multi-party democracy. Mr. Bhattarai made the appeal after meeting with his cabinet for 3-1/2 hours, saying people should be "patient to get the benefit of democratization," promised in the wake of Nepal's two-month political movement that ended with April 8 lifting of a ban on political parties. Mr. Bhattarai said, "The aspiration and expectation of the Nepalese people have gone high because of the recent changes in Nepal for democratization."

The prime minister, who took office last week, appealed to the public "to exercise restraint and guard against reactionary forces ... who are bent upon subverting democratic achievement." He recalled anti-democratic death squads following Nepal's revolution of the late 1940s which he said were defeated by people's vigilance.

"This time also people have demonstrated an unprecedented determination to defeat such notorious forces led by defunct Panchayat leaders," Mr. Bhattarai said, referring to the abolished system of indirectly elected councils known as Panchayats including the national Panchayat, or Parliament.

He vowed to do everything possible to maintain law and order and take action against elements responsible for vandalism, aggression and looting. Mr. Bhattarai asked the public to observe the nighttime curfew imposed on Monday, effective from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., "to defend people's life and property." Late Monday

evening armed security personnel of the Royal Nepalese Army took up posts in Kathmandu's various township areas, witnesses said.

Veteran communist leader Mana Mohan Adhikari said in a written statement that diehard Panchayat leaders were conspiring to topple the new coalition government but that the general public would resist their bid. Mr. Adhikari appealed to King Birendra to stand by his commitment to bring multi-party democracy to Nepal and ignore detractors, warning of "great repercussions which nobody interested in Nepal's welfare would like" in the event of failure.

"I trust the king had decided on the transition to multi-party democracy in good faith, after giving full thought to the entire situation and the international situation," Mr. Adhikari added.

Mr. Bhattarai had earlier conferred with King Birendra at the Royal Palace and discussed a decision by the coalition government to dismiss some zonal commissioners, district magistrates and police officials in a bid to boost efficiency and discipline in the general administration.

Meanwhile, official evening news reports confirmed six deaths in police firing on protestors and in a violent mob attack on allegedly hired thugs wearing police uniforms here on Monday.

By late afternoon hospital sources had confirmed five deaths and at least 27 patients with bullet injuries, while unofficial sources claimed 12 people died and 27 were injured including more than five seriously.

NC Threatens To Leave Government

BK2404040490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0335 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepali Congress [NC] has threatened to resign from the coalition government if it is not allowed to enforce peace in the country and arrest the mandales [antidemocratic elements] who are responsible for the current disturbances. The party general secretary, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, told PTI that they have drawn up a list of seven hardliners responsible of the repression of the peaceful agitation for multiparty democracy.

Mr. Bhattarai said in Kathmandu last night [23 April] that the major responsibility of his interim government is to prepare a constitution and hold free and fair elections as soon as possible. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that Mr. Bhattarai warned the people against the reactionary forces.

As already reported, the Army was called out in the capital yesterday, and night curfew clamped following violent incidents which claimed 10 lives. The kingdom is witnessing renewed violence in less than a week after the interim government led by Nepali Congress President Mr. Bhattarai was installed to meet the demand for greater democracy.

Curfew Lifted; Eight Dead

BK2404044890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 24 (AFP)—An overnight curfew was lifted here Tuesday [24 April] as Nepalese officials confirmed that eight people were killed and more than 40 injured in violence the previous day. One official also said that 15 policemen had disappeared Monday [23 April].

Police fired on mobs who attacked them Monday. Residents accused the police force of failing to maintain law and order since the reinstitution of a multiparty system in the Himalayan kingdom two weeks ago.

Home Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyaya said it had not yet been decided whether or not the 10-hour curfew would be reimposed Tuesday evening. "The situation is under control and we will maintain law and order fully," he said Tuesday, adding that it was peaceful throughout the night. "We are peace-loving people and we do not want to defame democracy," added the minister, who was newly appointed to the first coalition government here in 30 years led by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

An official said two people were killed and more than 40 injured when police opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators Monday, adding that 15 police disappeared.

In an attack earlier Monday which sparked the other protests, officials confirmed that mobs also killed six people dressed as police but who were suspected of working for hardliners from the ousted partyless panchayat government.

King, Army Extend Cooperation

BK2404075890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, the Army and police have assured their full cooperation to the Bhattarai government to restore peace and normalcy in the country. The assurance was given at a high-level meeting convened by the Nepalese prime minister. It was attended by cabinet ministers, commander in chief of the Army, inspector general of police, intelligence chiefs, and senior officials. The meeting reviewed the law and order situation arising out of the incidents of the last few days which claimed several lives and left many injured. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that Mr. Bhattarai met King Birendra yesterday and threatened to resign if the Army, police and the Royal Palace did not cooperate with the interim government to punish counterrevolutionary elements called Mandales who, he said, are indulging in arson and looting and attempting to destabilize the government.

Mr. Bhattarai told our correspondent that the king has assured him of his full cooperation.

In reply to a question, the Nepalese prime minister said that he has conveyed a message to the Indian prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for a meeting either in Kathmandu or in New Delhi to resolve the impasse in the India-Nepal relations. Mr. Bhattarai said the meeting at the highest level is absolutely necessary to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Pakistan

Indian 'Forward Movement' Called 'Intimidating'

BK2404114490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, has said Pakistan does not want war with India but at the same time has kept its defense machinery and armed forces in a fairly strong position. Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi today, he said the forward movement of the Indian troops was both offensive as well as defensive in nature and aimed at intimidating Pakistan. Despite all provocative statements by the Indian leaders and aggressive forward movement of their troops, Pakistan has not moved forward its troops and equipment.

The minister reiterated that the present uprise in the occupied Kashmir was purely indigenous. On Pakistan's support to Kashmir brethren, he said it was (?psychological), moral, and political nature and would continue. Referring to the statements by Indian Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh and other leaders, he said these reflected their desperation because of problems at home.

Troops To 'Move Out for Training'

BK2304154290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, April 23 (AFP)—Pakistan's troops will move out for training later this week to an unspecified location, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported Monday [23 April], quoting an Armed Forces spokesman here. The spokesman said the troops planned their move after the Moslem festival Eid on Thursday [26 April], which marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting.

"It should not be misinterpreted as troops movement," the official APP quoted him as saying. The agency did not say where the training would take place.

"Pakistan was behaving with maturity, but panicky propaganda was being carried out from the Indian side to play up imaginary incidents," the spokesman told local reporters.

Earlier, Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Indian troops had stayed longer than the usual December-to-February exercise period on their side of the border with Pakistan's Punjab province.

The Armed Forces spokesman said Pakistan had asked India why troops had not returned to their barracks and was told they were out "for training." He said Pakistan's troops were "at a reasonable distance in a defensive position" of the border, and "could advance within a few hours."

Gen. Beg said the situation in Indian-controlled Kashmir, where a Moslem separatist drive has cost more than 400 lives since the start of the year, had "a resemblance with the Intifada (uprising) of Palestine," a reference to the ongoing movement by Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Tensions between Pakistan and India have been mounting alarmingly over Kashmir, the center of two wars between them since their independence from Britain in 1947, with each side accusing the other of border troop movements. There have been international appeals calls for restraint over the past two weeks after Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh warned his country to be prepared psychologically for war.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Indian counterpart, Inder Kumar Gujral, are to meet either Tuesday [24 April] or Wednesday [25 April] in New York during a United Nations General Assembly meeting to discuss the issue.

Gen. Beg said Pakistan's initiative in calling for the meeting "reflects boldness and confidence."

Official Denies Reports of Army Call to Duty

BK2304154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi has rejected in categorical terms the press report that retired army officers and various other [words indistinct] officers, who are on leave, have been asked to report to duty in view of the current security situation. The spokesman said that although Pakistan is keeping a close watch on the security situation, the report is however baseless.

U.S. Chided for Revoking Kashmiri Leader's Visa

BK2204120690 Lahore THE NATION in English 22 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Washington's Duality"]

[Text] The State Department's decision to cancel Amanullah Khan's visa has not come as a surprise. The Kashmiri freedom-fighter's presence in New York, where he had gone to campaign for his cause in the UN, was a source of immense discomfort for New Delhi. The Indian Government had gone berserk in mounting a vilification campaign against his 'terrorist activities' and

demanding his arrest and extradition. Washington's acquiescence with New Delhi's demand does not simply mean that the mighty superpower has succumbed to bullying tactics, it has a connotation much wider than expediency. If history is any guide Pakistanis should know how the Americans have been taking them for a ride. We are their best friends and allies only as long as we fit in their global scheme of things and serve their interest. And Kashmir does not fall in the category of freedom movements which evoke their admiration and support.

Had Amanullah Khan been a Unita [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] insurgent or a Contra rebel, he would not have been dubbed as a "terrorist" by the State Department spokesperson and asked to leave the US. But, he is a Kashmiri freedom-fighter who like the Palestinians doesn't have the American sanction to fight in self-defence and to use gun against gun. Washington actually condones Israeli acts of terrorism, and more recently wants Gorbachev to show restraint in Lithuania and refrain from pressuring the freedom seekers into revoking their unilateral declaration of independence. But for Kashmir, where the Indian forces have unleashed a reign of terror to break the spirit of resistance, the US has a different prescription. The right of self-determination of the Kashmiris, or the wanton Indian terror do not figure at all as issues and the only concern it seems to have shown is how to preserve the status quo in the region. No one would grudge Washington playing the honest broker between India and Pakistan in order to avert a conflict in the region. But the attempt to consign the Kashmir issue to Limbo, which the Americans appear to be doing, is an unfriendly act towards Pakistan and a treachery to the cause of human freedom. Perhaps it is time for Islamabad to review its perception of friends and enemies in international politics.

Protestors Give Indian Embassy Kashmir Memorandum

BK2304161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan People's Party [PPP] workers formed a procession of buses, wagons, vans and motor cycles from Kohati Bazar in Rawalpindi today. They wanted to stage a peaceful protest demonstration in front of the Indian high commission in Islamabad to express their anguish over the Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. However, the demonstrators were stopped at Constitution Avenue due to the restrictive orders in the federal capital. Their leaders were, however, allowed to go to the office of the Indian high commission where they delivered a memorandum to the commission's representative. The memorandum condemned the use of brutal force by India against innocent Kashmiri children and women and called upon the Indian authorities to fulfill their pledge in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The memorandum said that the first Indian prime minister had promised the world body and the Kashmiri people that a plebiscite will be conducted to allow the Kashmiri people to determine their future themselves. However, the pledge was not fulfilled either by him or his successors.

The memorandum added that the people's struggle in the occupied valley cannot be wiped out by brutal use of force. It urged the Indian leadership to stop its heinous activities forthwith and hold a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir.

Committee Decides Dialogue To End 'Confrontation'

BK2404035490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Political Affairs Committee of the Federal Cabinet at its meeting in Islamabad reviewed the political situation in the country in the context of external threats. Later, the minister of state for information and broadcast, Mr. Ahmad Saeed Awan, said that the committee noted that the internal cohesion is the need of the hour. The government has been working toward this end since the restoration of democracy. But unfortunately certain elements have not accepted the new era and have adopted a policy of seeking to destabilize the political institutions in the country through the policy of confrontation. This policy, he said, has created tension which has to be resolved to strengthen the constitutional rule.

The minister of state said the meeting considered the recent statements and messages which indicate that these elements now desire a dialogue. Despite intense pressure from the majority of its members, the committee decided that in the greater interest of reconciliation, an initiative should be taken to see whether a working relationship could be evolved. For this purpose, a committee has been set up to explore the possibility of greater internal cohesion through a dialogue. Mr. Ahmad Saeed Awan said the committee felt that the time has come to end confrontation created by some elements' attitude through dialogue and other alternative political means. Further measures would be considered in light of this decision.

Afghan Mujahidin Reportedly Agree to Elections

BK2304122190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 90 pp 1, 10

[By Sadiq Jafri]

[Excerpt] Islamabad—The Afghan resistance groups based in Pakistan finally agreed to abandon the military option and to cooperate in international efforts to hold elections for setting up an all-party government in Afghanistan.

The decision was announced by the top leadership of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] headed by Prof. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and other leaders of the now six-party AIG at an Iftar [Ramadan fast-breaking] meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto here at Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] on Sunday [22 April].

As a sign of improvement in the intra-party situation in the resistance, the seventh break-away party of the alliance, Hezb-e Eslami, was also represented in the meeting by its chief, Mr. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

According to informed sources, three main topics were discussed in the meeting: holding of an internationally-supervised election, in fact jointly managed by the United Nations and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]; the mode of cooperation with the present Kabul regiment in this task; and, the repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees in their homeland.

Sources said that the Mujahidin leaders accepted the idea of a UN-ICO supervised elections, with the condition that the refugees will be allowed to cast their votes from their camps in Pakistan. They indicated that they were ready to cooperate with the "good Muslims" from among the present rulers in Kabul; those who do not hold offices in the ruling PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], and those who are not known for their extremist ideas.

On the other hand, the Mujahidin leaders resisted the UN plan for repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees until after the proposed election. The obvious reason for their blocking the way of the return of refugees is that first they want to make it sure that they will have enough seats in a future Afghan parliament, or Shura, to come into power. Only then they would allow their fellow citizens to go back to their homeland from their camps in Pakistan.

In the meeting, two Afghan leaders, Mr. Rabbani and Pir Gaylani, gave a detailed account of their recent talks with the leaders of Afghan groups based in Iran, and reportedly said that the response from the groups in Iran was encouraging.

The two leaders were asked to maintain their contact with the groups in Iran and make efforts for bringing about a collective decision for promoting a political settlement on Afghan issue.

The meeting at Aiwan-i-Sadr also decided that such high-level contact between Pakistan and the Afghan resistance based here should continue in future, to finalise the details of the election plan.

It was also decided to establish contact with the commanders based inside Afghanistan and take their consent for all these arrangements.

Pakistan, it is understood, made it clear to the resistance leaders that in view of the great decline in the military aid to Afghan cause from the international community, it would not be able to continue the military support to the guerillas.

However, the president and the prime minister assured the resistance leadership of Pakistan's continued moral and political support to a political settlement in Afghanistan.

While attaching much importance to Sunday's meeting, political observers here believe that at this point, there is reason to be optimistic about a political, peaceful settlement of Afghan problem in the near future, rather within 1990.

Both Mr. Iqbal Akhund, PM's [Prime Minister] Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security, and Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, Foreign Secretary, when contacted by THE PAKISTAN TIMES late Sunday night expressed their satisfaction over the outcome of the meeting with resistance leaders, and said they were optimistic about the political solution of Afghanistan.

It is understood that in the regular session of the ICO Foreign Ministers to be held in Cairo in June, the Afghan election plan will be approved.

On the other hand, there are all indications to believe that things are now going the way the Foreign Ministers of United States and Soviet Union had foreseen them to go at their recent meeting in Helsinki. A proposal for an end to military supply to opposing Afghan factions from both the superpowers is under consideration and is very likely to be approved in the pre-summit talks between Secretary Baker and Minister Shevardnadze to be held in the second half of May. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Refutes Report on Agreement

BK2404032290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has categorically described as false a news report that the top leadership of the Afghan Interim Government has apprised the Pakistan president and prime minister of its decision to abandon military option and to agree to elections under joint supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization. The spokesman described the report as absolutely false and fabricated.

He further said that at the meeting held in Islamabad last Sunday [22 April], the Afghan Interim Government leaders were unanimous in their resolve to continue their struggle until there was a political settlement consistent with the Afghan people's aspirations. At no time did they give any hint of abandoning their struggle.

On the contrary, the spokesman said, the Afghan leaders are confident of their success. They are sure that power will be transferred to the true representatives of the Afghan people after they have established an elected Shura [Consultative Assembly] with the help and cooperation of the military commanders in more than 90 percent of the area controlled by them. Seeing their resolve, there was no question of their taking a stand of the kind falsely attributed to them.

Spokesman Denies Punjab Chief's Allegation

BK2204164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] A spokesman of the Interior Ministry has taken notice of the allegations made by the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, recently claiming that professional murderers and violent convicts released by the federal government were causing trouble in the Punjab.

The spokesman pointed out that such statements are being issued with the motive to malign the actions of the democratically-elected federal government taken in good faith and broader national interests. The prisoners so released with the approval of the president on December 1988 were persons over 60 years in age who had undergone imprisonment for five years or more, women not involved in murder, and convicts of military courts not charged for heinous crimes.

It has also been pointed out that the prime minister had constituted a review committee comprising the attorney general, the interior minister, and the minister of law and justice to review cases of military court convicts confined in jails. The review committee further constituted a high-power subcommittee comprising retired high court judges to inspect the record of such convicts and make its recommendations to the committee. More than one year ago, the names of all the prisoners who benefited from the announcement based on these recommendations were placed before parliament. Not one specific name has been identified by the Punjab authorities as being involved in such crimes. The allegations are therefore unfounded.

The spokesman pointed to the fact that the release of prisoners was granted in 1988 on purely humanitarian grounds. A few prisoners released later were those convicted by military courts, ignoring the spirit of judicious decision making as adjudged by the subcommittee comprising retired high court judges and reviewed by the high-level committee. The spokesman said the allegations of the Punjab chief minister were not based on facts and the federal government cannot be held responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in the province. The Punjab administration should look for reasons for the lack of law and order in the province in its own policies. It should control the elements within the ranks of the ruling party in Punjab who take the law into their own hands.

Sri Lanka

Government Invites EPRLF for Talks in May

BK2404095690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has invited a regional Tamil political party for talks on May 15 on the country's bloody ethnic conflict in which thousands have died, party sources said Tuesday [24 April]. A spokesman for the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which dominates the provincial government in the Northeast said the invitation came in a letter Monday [23 April] from the Sri Lankan state minister for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne.

The EPRLF said it would be accepting the invitation for talks with the Sri Lankan Government. Mr. Wijeratne has informed the EPRLF that he and Justice Minister Shahul Hameed would represent the government at the negotiations.

The government invitation was in response to a letter sent by the EPRLF to Mr. Wijeratne stating that it did not consider a 19-point charter of demands it had put forward as "a precondition" for talks with Colombo.

The EPRLF said in a previous appeal that the charter of demands, which includes greater autonomy for the Northeast, would constitute the basis for dialogue. The Sri Lankan Government turned down the EPRLF appeal saying it would like to hold talks "without either party laying down conditions".

Colombo opened peace talks last April with the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which today virtually controls the sprawling northeastern region, home to the island's Tamil minority. The LTTE wants the EPRLF-headed government in the Northeast dissolved and fresh elections to choose a new provincial administration.

The EPRLF, which is violently opposed to the LTTE, was elected to govern the Northeast in elections held in November 1988 and boycotted by the Tigers.